Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Tours Crops Enterprise, Reviews Progress

FL0602161592 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Excerpts] A team from this news program which was at the 19 April Vegetable Crops Enterprise in Quivican this morning coincided with our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, who was touring the work areas of that enterprise. He was concerned about the possible effect on Havana Province of the tropical storm from the northern part of the Gulf of Mexico. The interview also covered the current status of the harvest, storage in the cold storage centers, and the outlook for the summer.

[Begin recording] [Castro] [passage omitted] They are working on that one as quickly as possible to finish it before the harvest begins. Now, there is another good thing. The potato harvest has been going very well up to now, and we may be able to harvest more potatoes than last year from fewer caballerias.

There is another problem. We have carrots. We know now that carrots can be stored for several months but they told me this morning that even cabbage, which I believed could only be stored for a month, can be stored for up to two or three months. They say that the outer leaves turn a little brown, but it is perfectly alright. [passage omitted]

Why do we need to store cabbage? Because the late rains hindered the preparation of the land earlier. Therefore, it all had to be planted during the end of November and December, and there was not a high level of production until now in the second half of February. In March, well, in March everything is harvested. Potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, everything is harvested at the same time. So everything is being harvested, and that is when the work will be the most intense. But since the cabbage harvest is spread over almost three or four months there must be approximately.... [rephrases] The program covered 120 caballerias. Every caballeria that I have seen in the state sector is past the 10-month point, and they are already being harvested. The estimates that people had made.... [changes thought] I have visited places where the estimates were conservative. Well, there will be a large amount of cabagge in three months. Will the populace consume it? We are afraid we will have to use it to feed the animals. But if we can store it with refrigeration, even if it is only a month or two longer, we can store cabbage until June, maybe July.

We can store carrots longer. What did they do last year with the carrots as a crop? They planted a little late. The same happened with eggplant. Today, eggplant, carrots, all of this is being planted in January and February to obtain a much larger harvest. In the spring we should plant as little as possible because of the competition with the weeds. This is what happened last year with eggplant. There were little eggplant plants, with weeds around them, and you could not distinguish between the eggplants and the weeds in order to pull up the weeds. Now, when June comes the eggplants will still be large and producing. The carrots, the surplus, what the populance has not consumed will be in the cold storage centers. This is why these new possibilities and new experiences have been developed, and we may not have enough capacity to store all these things in the number of cold storage centers we have built.

[Unidentified reporter] There is something I have found all over Havana Province. One can see the change in the policies of the enterprises. They are already planting yucca and yams. So the winter crops are being grown, and the other crops are being grown at the same time, because in all the enterprises I have visited I have asked if they are planting spring vegetables. I have noticed this in all of them.

[Castro] That is very good, very well done, because there is the slump period. So, what are we going to have during that period? Well, potatoes, and greater cold storage capacity to store them. Last year, the harvest was bad for reasons of climate, pests, because there were still a lot of weeds, the labor force was not very well organized, agriculture was not organized as it is this year. In addition, a lot of potatoes rotted in agricultural distribution centers, in many places where the potatoes were stored for a while, since there was not enough cold storage capacity. Because in addition, we have to store the potato seeds in the cold storage centers. That took up some capacity. That saves millions of dollars because we do not import all the seeds. We produce as much as we can here.

But last year, we did not really have the kind of organization that we have this year. Up to now, the weather has been better this year. We have had more cold than last year. The enterprises are eradicating the weeds. They pull the weeds and carry them in sacks or piles to the edges of the fields so that they will not take root again, and all those things. The program is much more rational, and a great effort is being made to cope with the slump season, the famous slump season. As I have said, we are going to have potatoes. We are going to have, well, in the slump season, yucca and boniato, of which we are planting as much as possible, and different varieties so that production is staggered. So there is a great plan starting in the cold season for boniato and yucca, which is what is harvested in those months.

[Unidentified reporter] I have heard that corn will also be included in these harvests.

[Castro] Well, planting a little less potato, a little more tomato, planting the carrots now, planting the eggplant now, to do all this work we have a larger labor force in the spring than before then. Well, we have to devote land and people to those crops, which are very difficult to do in the spring. So everything that is used for cucumbers.... [rephrases] and we must plant cucumbers in the spring because it is harvested after 40 or 50 days. We have no

alternative but to plant it at that time. We are going to plant a little less beans in rotation with tomatoes on stakes to get greater yields. We have a new variety, which is the Guinea 1 or [word indistinct] 2—that is what it is called—but we will not have as many caballerias because what we plant in those months, in May, gets a lot of competition from the weeds. It is very hard work.

We are going to plant less okra. That is a crop that, well, we wanted to grow it to have something in those months, but it takes an enormous amount of work, very hard work, and it does not have a high yield per caballeria. So what will we have? Well, some beans. Perhaps with fewer caballerias we will produce more than we produced last year. We will also have some okra. But we will have carrots, for example. We will have eggplant. It is very difficult. There are some kinds of chard and other things that can be harvested in those months. There are the tubers, the four major ones: boniato, yucca, potatoes, and plantains. Plantains are our great ally that is gaining tremendous strength. There will be less squash, because unfortunately we do not yet have a good variety of seeds. The ones we have degenerate a little. The people at the research centers are working hard to find squash that will yield more than 800 quintals, because it is not worth it to plow the land, expend the energy and the labor force, to get 800 quintals from one caballeria. That is why squash is also being reduced.

Now, after potatoes and tomatoes, all the land that is left available will immediately be planted in corn. Of course, not much will be produced, because unfortunately corn produces 300 quintals per caballeria.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] A lot is done, but the amounts are small. It is not like potatoes, which can give you 2 million quintals. It is not like boniato or yucca, which can give you 2 million quintals. It is not even like eggplant, which can give you 10,000 or 8,000. It is not like carrots, which can give you 7,000 or 8,000. Three hundred quintals from 500 caballerias for a population... [rephrases] means eating it three or four times, and that is all. But what is going to be bad afterwards, what is going to be bad is when the corn runs out, if we do not have the reserves of yucca, boniato, carrots, eggplants, potatoes, and plantains. That is what we are going to have.

Of course, we cannot have those refined vegetables such as those peppers—those California peppers, as they call them—fresh cabbage, or the tomatoes we are harvesting from the stakes now. We are not going to have them in those months because we cannot. If we tried to plant them in those months, we could not get 4,000 or 5,000 quintals. We would get 1,000 quintals or less. Last year we (?planted) a little more in the spring, but the farmers wanted to plant it, and they planted 50 caballerias. They lost all 50 caballerias. But we have already learned from experience that in that period we cannot plant out of season, unless you have varieties that can be planted out of season. We are working on that, because it is getting hotter and hotter and more and more humid in those months. Last year the rains were excessive in those months in the western region, not in the eastern regions.

Well, I can say that weather is a very important factor. Right now as we speak, a tropical depression has been announced. It is in the northeastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. We are concerned here about some predictions from the meteorology institute about possible strong winds, which as yet have not occurred, fortunately. We must follow this closely, because there may be very heavy rains and very strong winds. You must understand that if excessive rains fall on all this you have seen around here, and there are very strong winds, there may be considerable damage done. So we cannot think we have won yet. We are going to continue to observe this. I am making this tour today precisely to see if it is raining at these enterprises and what the wind is like. It is not that I can do anything, but at least I can be informed about the situation and not be left with the uncertainty about what is happening around here.

What is falling in Havana today is a deluge. Today in the morning, Wednesday, 5 September... [corrects himself] not September, February. At about 0800 or 0900—it had already rained some in the early morning—a heavy rain began to fall. When I left to begin this tour, I can tell you that you could not see anything. It was a torrential rainstorm, really. So we have to take all these factors into account. Up to now, everything has been going extremely well, and the weather has helped us. But we hope nature will not come along and cause us a disaster of this kind. [chuckles]

[Unidentified reporter] We cannot [words indistinct]

[Castro] Well, we would have no alternative but to forgive and continue, which is what we are going to do. We are not going to become discouraged by that. [end recording]

Castro Tours Bejucal Biological Products Center

FL0702025592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] This afternoon, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz visited the Bejucal National Biological Products Center in Havana where he toured areas already in operation and talked with several of its workers. Maricelis Gonzalez, deputy director of the center, briefed Fidel on details of the industrial process and demonstrated the quality and speed which with vials can be inspected, a job which employs approximately 60 women.

Fidel was pleased and expressed satisfaction with the work being done, in view of the efficient production reached in the first stage of the bio-production complex. At the same time he urged the workers to labor with commitment and dedication, to obtain the best possible quality on every product. The Cuban president toured the biological products center for over an hour. He was

accompanied by Juan Mario Junco, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and leader of Brigade No. 25 of the Blas Roca Calderio contingent, the collective which is building the center.

Finally, the commander in chief toured the planting facility and adjacent specialized sections. Fidel was warmly welcomed by the workers throughout his tour of the work centers.

Castro Nominated Delegate to Science Congress

FL0702030792 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Part of Cuba [PCC], has been nominated as delegate to the constituent congress of the Science Union during the first assembly held in Santiago de Cuba Province with this objective.

A report from our contributing colleague William de Armas, from the provincial station CMKC Radio Revolucion, indicates that during the meeting, held at the sugarcane experimental station located in Pica in Palma Soriano, the 76 workers of the center agreed to join the new union being formed without relinquishing membership in the sugarcane workers union.

Eugenio Coba Ibanes, first PCC secretary of the Palma Soriano Municipality, and researchers Maria Mercedez Gomez and Luis Manuel Rodriguez were also nominated as candidates to the Science Union constituent congress. During the meeting several candidates were proposed to integrate the national committee of the Science Union, whose constituent congress is scheduled for the end of March.

Jose Antonio Hernandez, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] in Santiago de Cuba Province, and Milagros Beigel, member of the provincial CTC Secretariat, pointed out the significance of the process begun today in the province during the meeting.

French Senate Delegation Meets Castro 4 Feb

PA0602150092 Paris AFP in Spanish 1626 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Havana, 5 Feb (AFP)—Cuban President Fidel Castro voiced an interest in the French Constitution and electoral system, during two lengthy meetings held with members of a French-Latin American friendship mission of the French Senate, who arrived on the island on 1 February and met with him on 4 February.

In statements to AFP, Rolando Du Luart (Independent Republican), president of the parliamentary group, said "it is quite likely that the regime will last." He invited French industrialists to invest in Cuba.

The mission included Legislators Jacques Berard (Neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic), Pierre Vallon (Centrist), Claude Pradille (Socialist), and Hector Viron (Communist).

According to Luart, Fidel Castro appears to be "traumatized" by the country's economic situation, and estimates it will take five years to overcome the situation.

During a meeting which lasted over two and one-half hours on the afternoon of 4 February, and another meeting the same night during a reception hosted by the French Embassy in Havana, Fidel Castro "raised many specific questions about French institutions," Senator Luart explained.

Cuban authorities are currently drafting reforms to the electoral system.

While "there is currently an extremely negative view of Cuba in France, one cannot deny that when one is in this country one notes the positive aspects," Luart said, adding that in his opinion the French press "is quite hard."

The senator said the French mission will convey a message to Juan Escalona, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, on the cases of the Cuban dissidents, especially that of Maria Elena Cruz Varela, who was sentenced last fall to two years in prison.

"I am not in any position to talk about what is happening in human rights affairs," the French senator said.

Luart said he told the members of the Cuban delegation what France's position is regarding human rights and about its objection to the executions, clearly alluding to Cuban immigrant Eduardo Diaz Betancourt, who was executed by firing squad last 20 January after clandestinely entering Cuba with explosives.

Dominican Friendship Group Stresses Solidarity

FL0602220992 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2038 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Today, Abelardo Vicioso, president of the Dominican Friends of Cuba Committee, affirmed that due to present circumstances they will increase their solidarity with the Cuban revolution and will promote large-scale aid for the island. The leader of the Dominican group pointed out that Cuba will overcome its present difficulties despite the intensification of the U.S. blockade and the problems derived from the collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Abelardo Vicioso added that the new attacks against the revolution, and Cuba's difficult economic situation have intensified expressions of support in the Dominican Republic and new solidarity groups keep emerging. The president of the Dominican Friends of Cuba Committee characterized the blockade imposed by the United States

against Cuba more than 30 years ago as criminal, and added that the blockade is an unjustified violation of international law.

Ross Meets With Latin American Union Leaders

FL0602235592 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2040 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] During a meeting with members of Latin American trade unions, Pedro Ross, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC], has given a general overview of the efforts that the Cuban labor movement is making to cope with the present difficulties and to solve them. He told union leaders from several countries currently studying at the Lazaro Pena National Trade Union Cadre School that the Cuban workers are able to glimpse the prospects of victory, and added that the CTC is the result of a process of unity.

Pedro Ross praised the ties among all union movements of the continent under the principle of mutual respect, and pointed out the importance of everyone closing ranks for the benefit of the Latin American and Caribbean working class. During the meeting, the union leaders expressed their gratitude to the CTC for the opportunity to come to Cuba, and agreed to promote aid for the Cuban people during these difficult times.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Upcoming Caricom Kingston Summit Viewed

FL0602142492 Bridgetown CANA in English 1326 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Report by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 6, CANA—Heads of government of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) meet in Kingston, Jamaica on February 19 amid divisions and fears over the future of the 18-year-old regional economic integration movement. Dominica Trade Minister Charles Maynard, taking over chairmanship of a Council of Ministers that is the community's second most important organ after the heads of government conference, told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY:

"I am afraid we may have realised our limits in functional co-operation. We must now find new ways to work together for our collective survival, for there's no alternative to closer co-operation in the face of the changing international environment."

The future of the region's premier cultural event Carifesta (Caribbean Festival of Arts)—which in 1972 preceded the birth of Caricom—and the controversy surrounding the work of the high-powered 15-member West Indian Commission are all scheduled to engage the crowded one-day agenda of the community's heads of governments.

Trinidad and Tobago Government's recent decision to postpone the hosting of the fifth Carifesta this year—the fourth was held 10 years ago in Barbados—will be considered within the context of a widening perception that there should be a series of "mini regional festivals" instead on Olympian-style Carifesta once every five years.

At least one prime minister, Dame Eugenia Charles of Dominica, who has taken issue publicly with the commission's chairman, Shridath Ramphal, over his criticisms of Caricom leaders for failing to act more decisively in the interest of the region, is not expected to show for the Kingston summit. Ms. Charles told CANA that she was "more likely" to be attending instead a meeting of representatives of the European Economic Community in the Dominican Republic around the same time.

Last month, Ms. Charles rebuked Mr. Ramphal as having "no right" to publicly reprimand Caricom heads for their reported failures to make progress on a cluster of six areas for "immediate action" as agreed at the 12th Caricom summit in St. Kitts-Nevis last year. In reflecting some of his own reservations over the "snail's pace approach" in the creation of a single market and economy—promised for mid 1990—Ramphal, the former secretary general of the Commonwealth said in Port-of-Spain:

"The commission will be holding them (the leaders who assumed special portfolio responsibilities for the "immediate action" programmes) to that commitment whose fulfillment could be a tonic to a region that simply has to get out of a mode of thinking which takes it for granted that all our ills can be cured by the passage of time in a leisurely Caribbean way...."

For Ramphal, whose commission's final report is currently being prepared for the 13th Caricom summit scheduled for Port-of-Spain in July, "the time has passed when we can afford to be dilettante courtiers of regionalism. We have espoused that fashion for far too long without changing our clothes."

"In the process", he declared, "we have become not a model of unified action in regional affairs but the most fragmented and over-governed people in the world...."

A former foreign minister of Guyana, Ramphal noted that Caricom, with its 13 member countries comprised a population of just over five-and-a-half million people; with 13 heads of government, 13 heads of state and flags and national anthems; 13 parliaments, many with two chambers; seven currencies; 13 passports; and four international airlines.

Launched at Chaguaramas in Trinidad and Tobago in July 1973 as the successor to the Caribbean Free Trade Association (Carifta), the community has been afflicted by increasing tension over approaches to a single market and absence of any effective mechanism for implementation of decisions.

The one-day informal Kingston summit comes amid new moves by the seven-member Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) for a single market of their own to relate to the rest of their Caricom partners. It comes amidst fresh proposals by the Caricom Secretariat for the three-day Council of Ministers meetings on a range of sensitive issues to stop the community as a whole, including the OECS subregion, from being paralysed by areas of discontent.

These include calls for scrapping a controversial unanimity rule, entrenched in the Caricom treaty, that requires consensus on all major issues involving its member states, and the thorny question of a Common External Tariff (CET)—implementation of which has proven embarassingly elusive over the past year because of sharp disagreements within the OECS.

Caricom's director of trade and agriculture, Hayden Blades, who has been deeply involved in preparing new options for a "more realistic, phased approach toward a single market and economy," told CANA:

"However, unpleasant it may be for us to admit it, the time has clearly come to move away from the more romantic approach of the Caricom Chaguaramas Treaty in the pursuit of regional economic integration."

"It is now to be hoped", said Blades, "that the coming Council of Ministers meetings as well as the intersessional meeting of the Caricom heads (the so-called informal summit) will give serious consideration to a range of recommendations resulting from a study that was mandated by last October's special Council of Ministers meeting."

The essential elements of the Caricom Secretariat's package of proposals for the February 13-15 meetings in Jamaica of the Caricom Council of Ministers provide for three related categories by member states to co-operate for the realisation, hopefully by 1995, of a single market and economy. There is to be a grouping within the general community of member states who subscribe to free trade and functional co-operation; a foreign policy co-ordination grouping; and a single market community of countries that will decide their levels of participation and working towards a single economy.

But Mr. William Demas, former Caricom secretary general, a member of the West Indian Commission and one of the well-known passionate advocates of regional economic and political integration, told CANA that without the benefit of knowing the details of the Secretariat's working paper, he would "caution against proposals that may only encourage disintegration tendencies."

Dominica's Trade Minister Maynard said that as far as we was aware "none of the ideas" alluded to by Mr. (Hayden) Blades as new options for Caricom membership had been considered and "I would add with emphasis that we must treat them for what they are, proposals coming from the Secretariat."

Questioned whether the initiative by the OECS to have a single market when the community as a whole continued to flounder in the implementation of key areas of a harmonised external tariff structure, trade payments mechanism, and unified fiscal incentives, Maynard said that "nothing is really final, and it should not be seen as being necessarily conflicting at this stage."

He, however, conceded that the community's governments as a whole "need to get their acts together in the implementation process. We must also stop having too many meetings with long agendas and settle for what's realistic and manageable both for the Secretariat staff and the respective governments."

Maynard said he was not optimistic that the forthcoming Council of Ministers meeting in Kingston would be able to "devote the attention required to some of the pressing issues in view of the very long agenda of at least 15 issues, as I recall." He would not voice an opinion on the likely outcome of the one-day Caricom summit, stating "this is someone else's responsibility."

He would, however like to see ministers and heads of government leave their Kingston meetings with a "minimum programme that could be implemented before the next Caricom Council of Ministers meeting and the July summit."

Antigua and Barbuda

Diplomatic Ties Established With Guatemala

FL0602181992 Bridgetown CANA in English 1754 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Feb 6, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda and the Central American country of Guatemala this week established diplomatic relations at non-resident ambassadorial level. A government statement here said both countries are "desirous of developing and strengthening their relations in the interest of peace and cooperation among peoples and on a basis of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity."

Both sides favoured non-intervention, the non-use of force in international relations, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and "other principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations," the statement said.

Dominica

Foreign Minister on Haitian Refugee Repatriation

FL0602185092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1827 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Feb 6, CANA—Dominica's External Affairs Minister Brian Alleyne says it would be hypocritical for Caribbean governments to criticise the United States' forced repatriation of Haitian refugees,

when regional governments have been reluctant to take some of the Haitian boat people off its hands.

"We in the Caribbean really cannot take a self-righteous position on this issue," Alleyne told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY. He sees the Haitian problem as one which has been around for quite a while, but one aggravated by last September's military takeover that toppled the administration of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"The United States has been absorbing the full impact of it. We in the region have not found it possible to lend any support. So how can we say on the one hand that we are not prepared to play any role in the absorbing of refugees from Haiti within our own hemisphere, within our own sea, and at the same time condemn the United States for not being able to accept this flood of refugees," he asked?

He added that he was sympathetic to the Haitian refugees, understood their plight, and feared for their safety.

"We would have wished that better could be done. But I think the long-term solution is the re-establishment of the constitutional order in Haiti," he said.

Haiti

Raoul Cedras Promoted to Lieutenant General

FL0602194092 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Report on promotion ceremony of Raoul Cedras to lieutenant general, at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince on 5 February; by Rothchild Francois—recorded]

[Text] [Francois] Raoul Cedras graduated from the Military Academy on 23 January 1973 as a warrant officer. Approximately 19 years later, he is a lieutenant general, which is the top-ranking officer of the Army in the position of commander in chief. During a ceremony at the National Palace on 5 February, Raoul Cedras was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general by Provisional President Joseph Nerette. The commander of the Army was hailed by 17 salvos. He also reviewed the troops on the palace lawn in front of a host of Haitian and foreign journalists.

Interior Minister Gracia Jean saluted the tolerance, moderation, and clear-sightedness that he thinks Commander Cedras always shows. The minister also stated that today everyone is questioning the future of the military institution. Garcia Jean said professionalism is the word that crops up most often. Jean was also asking himself on this word when speaking of foreigners. He wondered: Have we already forgotten 1915, [first year of the American occupation] as the aftermath of the occupation are still affecting us?

The interior minister also advocated the modernization of the Army in his speech. Gracia Jean thinks a real collective effort is needed so this goal can be reached.

[Jean] We need a collective, real, and keen commitment to take up the challenges we are faced with today. If one speaks of modernization of the Army, a modernization in all its cultural valence in order to bring about the insertion of this institution into the social, cultural, and economic life of our people, we really need a collective commitment. That is a challenge that concerns all Haitians and we will manage to do it only by mobilizing all our resources. A new chance has been offered us. By the order of their nature, the events have offered the Army genuine widespread support. Citizens full of history and courage are ready to help us. We must then use their services and their courage. We will manage to unite this Army and people.

Sovereignty has only one connotation and can have only one connotation: The willingness of a people and their decision to solve their problems by themselves.

[Francois] The representatives of the three bureaucracies attended this ceremony at the National Palace. The guests shook hands with the commander in chief and congratulated him. As for the many journalists present, they wanted something else. They wanted to have a statement from Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras. Microphones were held out to the commander in chief, but he did not actually make any statements on this very important day in his military career.

Cedras Approves Army Promotions, Transfers

FL0702022792 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Army Commander in Chief Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras has appointed three new generals in the Army and made important changes in the Army High Staff: Colonel Jean-Claude Duperval, 45 years old, former military attache in Venezuela and former Port-au-Prince police chief under President Ertha Pascal Trouillot, is appointed major general and Army adjutant commander in chief. Former Col. Philippe Biamby, expelled from the Army in 1989 under Gen. Prosper Avil for allegedly participating in a coup d'etat while he was commander of the presidential guard, is reinstated into the Army as as brigadier general and chief of Army high general staff in Haiti.

Three members of the high staff are also appointed military attaches in foreign countries. They include Col. Joseph Lemoine Florestant, appointed military attache in Washington; Henri-Robert Augustin in Caracas; and Eddy Louis in Paris. Col. Henry-Robert Marc Charles, military attache in Washington is appointed G-3 in the Army high staff; Col. Hebert Valmond, is appointed chief of the Coordination and Military Assistance Bureau and the G-2 second bureau.

Two other colonels, Carl Dorelien, G-1; and Frantz Douby, G-2; have been confirmed to the Army high staff in the posts they have been temporarily in charge of. Former Col. Ernst Prudhomme, 38 years old, is appointed Army general adjutant.

All the appointed officers, except for Col. Prudhomme, are from the same cadet class of 1971-1975, which was the class of General Cedras. He graduated as the leader of the class which marked the re-opening of the Haitian Military Academy after the death of President Francois Duvalier, who had closed it several years earlier.

Senate Arbitration Committee Presents Findings

FL0702020692 Port-au-Prince LE MATIN in French No. 30.305 6-7 Feb 92 p 1-6

[Text] The Senate Arbitration Committee made its report on Tuesday on its many meetings with the various sectors of national life. This report, read by the secretary or the committee's reporter, Senator Mondestin, presents the positions of each institution or political party point by point.

According to this report, Haiti's Army says that it is very much aware of the seriousness of the situation and hopes that the decision reached by the "negotiations" saves the country from civil war and helps it move forward.

Of 11 political parties who answered the invitation of the arbitration committee, five favor "holding elections" as a logical consequence of Article 149 of the Constitution. These parties include the Mobilization for National Development, the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, the Assembly of Christian Democrats, the Haitian Party of God, and the National Party for the Defense of Workers.

Five political parties favor the negotiated solution, but with parameters that sometimes match and sometimes differ enormously. These parties include the National Cooperative Action Movement, the National Agricultural and Industrial Party, the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, the Union of Haitian Constitutionalists, and the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November. These parties are also opposed to calling into question the decisions made by parliament: appointments at the Courts of Cassation and Audit and the ratification of General Cedras as Army commander in chief.

It is significant to note the parties that did not participate in these meetings: the Movement for National Reconstruction, the National Front for Change and Democracy, the Nationalist and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, the Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti of Francois Latortue, the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats, and the National Labor Party.

The socioprofessional and religious sectors rejected the invitation. In other words, the lawyers bar association, the medical corps, the teachers association, the engineers association, the Episcopal conference, the federation of Protestant churches, the employers sector, and the labor union sector were conspicuous in their absence. The arbitration committee, which is due to meet with the lavalas sector, will prepare a detailed report with recommendations.

Pro-Aristide Demonstration Held; No Strike

FL0702030492 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2300 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Hundreds of people demonstrated in Port-au-Prince early this morning in Carrefour Feuille, supporting the return to power of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Virulent slogans against the Army high staff were flourished and barricades of burning tires erected at the entrance to the Carrefour Feuille public market. Police intervened in the area somewhat later.

It is to be noted that the call for a general strike, launched by partisans of the ousted president, was not heeded as has been the case in Port-au-Prince and other province towns, particularly Cap- Haitien. [as heard]

Senate Rejects Executive Proposal on Appointments

FL0702012092 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLLISTE in French No. 34.232 5 Feb 92 pp 2,10

[Article by Gaillot Joseph: "The Senate Rejects a Proposal from the Executive"]

[Text] On 4 February, the upper chamber rejected by an overwhelming majority the executive's proposal to appoint members of the boards of directors of autonomous organizations. The senators, with the exception of Julio Larosiliere and Franck Leonard—the latter of whom left the session before it closed—justify that rejection based on the ineffectiveness of the current government.

Jacques Rony Modestin, National Reconstruction Movement [MRN] senator for the north, who initiated the rejection, asserted that the Honorat government has not performed satisfactory work. The northern senator intends to stand in the prime minister's way. The senator pointed out the military repression that is occurring in the north and center of the country where honest family men and women, ordinary citizens, are forced to take to the bush.

Commenting on the appointment of board members to supervise the most important institutions in the country, Grand'Anse Haitian Christian Democratic Party Senator Robert Opont said these appointments are not necessary. Opont cited the insufficiency of financial resources of the current government, which was compelled to reduce the salary of the senators to $800. According to Art L. Austin, National Front for Change

and Democracy senator for the northeastern department, these appointments will further ruin the country because those who are going to be installed by the executive are racketeers.

Two senators from the south, Franck Leonard of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party and Julio Larosiliere of the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats, on the other hand, supported the executive on the matter. Senator Leonard, who was booed several times by his colleagues, reminded them that it is only through these administrators that they receive their salaries. Larosiliere condemns the method proposed by Mondestin to reject all initiatives of the executive and calls the position of his colleague "parliamentary guerilla."

Mondestin replied: "Am I doomed to live as an outcast? This is an allusion to his statement last Sunday about Prime Minister Honorat before the arbitration committee. He had accused the head of government of waffling when he had advocated negotiation during his declaration of general policy last October.

Senator Clark Parent went one step further when he asked whether, "Honorat is in power for 30 years, or if he is in for life." Has the Honorat mandate not expired? Has he fulfilled it satisfactorily by organizing elections? Western Senator Clark also wondered about this.

Some senators have told friends and journalists that they should expect an extremely tense situation over the next few days. They allude to the executive's need to show its claws. On that score, Senator Jacques Rony Mondestin even suggested that the president of the upper chamber modify the Senate's work schedule. The reason expressed by the MRN senator is: "Times are hard." He took the opportunity to recount the threats hurled at him by a "former senator of the Republic." Senator Mondestin also spoke of the recent visit of heavily armed men to his home.

Let us finally point out that the list of names of proposed members of boards of directors, sent by the government to the Senate and rejected by the latter, included over 20 names. Until now, the government had not reacted to this decision by the senators.

Aristide Thanks Dominican People for Solidarity

FL0702014492 Barahona Radio Enriquillo in Creole 1100 GMT 5 Feb 92

["Excerpt" of interview with deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide by unidentified reporter, place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] President, how do you see the solidarity between the two nations and what specifically do you expect from the solidarity of the Dominican people?

[Aristide] I am taking this opportunity to greet the Dominican people. First of all, I would like to answer in a theological manner; our faith in God prompts us to explore life together with our brothers and sisters. We, Haitian Christians, believe that we cannot discover this life without counting on the solidarity of our Dominican brothers. We share the same island with them. The coup d'etat has hindered the smooth running of things. Sometimes we admire the hope of the Dominican people who did not hesitate to greet the Haitian people. We can share this faith with those who are searching for life. Therefore, I think it is necessary to thank the Dominican people on behalf of the Haitian people, and particularly on behalf of the Haitians who took refuge in the Dominican Republic because of the repression.

Unfortunately, the situation has not yet improved. There is life in the resistance of the Haitian people even though the weapons of Cedras, Michel Francois, and their acolytes continue to kill. We must recognize the Christian capacity of the Dominicans and Haitians who generously gave of themselves to support us in faith when the current provisional government tried to build walls between the two people.

It is in this sense that I am telling you that it would be good that the Haitian and Dominican Christians unite themselves to build a road toward life which should go beyond the walls that they [not further identified] want to impose to disunite these two peoples. The God of life is asking us to walk side by side, hand in hand, while sharing the life that he is giving us.

Our good sense invites us to see how we can benefit from such a reality so that through education we can uncover or avoid such crimes. You have not supported the authors of the coup. I appreciate the solidarity that has been established between the Dominican and Haitian people. I thank my Dominican brothers and sisters who since 30 September 1991 have expressed their disapproval of the coup d'etat. They are trying everything possible to establish a democratic civilization able to go beyond the Haitian-Dominican border. The Dominican people are offering us historical help in a Latin American framework when we need defenders of democracy.

You, Dominican and Haitian brothers, I hope that you will continue working for this democratic civilization.

St. Lucia

Opposition Party Unveils Social, Economic Program

FL0602181792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1752 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Feb 6, CANA—The main opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP), campaiging for a general election, Tuesday night unveiled a social and economic programme aimed partly at encouraging the development of small businesses on the island. SLP leader Julian Hunte, addressing the annual general meeting of the St. Lucia Industrial and Small Business Association (SLISBA), said the party's programme was

geared towards the overall economic development of St. Lucia. He said favoured economic self respect, the establishment of integrated fiscal management, and provide for basic human needs.

Hunte said a critical aspect of the programme would be a new attitude towards the work ethic. "Many persons argue that there is no such thing in St. Lucia. Well there must be one, and it is the intention of the SLP government to prioritise our education system that the world of school is a preparation for the world of work," he said.

He told the small business organisations here that a Labour Party government would embark on "an irreversible course towards indegenous industrialisation in a way which will help us to achieve major import substitution advances...."

"It is our intention to establish incubator industries and industrial workshops which will not only be part of the execution of the indegenous industrialisation programme, but will also be part of our deliberate policy to spread out industry into pockets of population throughout the country."

Hunte said that while his party would not move away from large overseas investments, it would encourage locals to get involved in the economic development of the island.

"In this way our people will begin to be proud that they are participating in the economic processes. We will gain our self respect because of our entrepreneurial endeavours not because of our availability for cheap labour," he said.

Salinas Marks 75th Anniversary of Constitution

PA0602172592 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Report on a speech by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Mexican Constitution, in Queretaro on 5 February; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] On 5 February in Queretaro, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari headed the ceremony to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the proclamation of the Mexican Constitution.

In the same room where the 1917 Constitution was proclaimed, President Salinas asserted that the Mexican people and his government have initiated the great reform of the Mexican revolution and are building a new profile for the Mexico of the 21st century. These changes have been accomplished in peace while preserving sovereignty, the president underscored to representatives from the three branches of state.

"Mexican society and the national political forces have had the maturity to hold talks and meetings and to find new ways of relating to one another. This has prevented the country from undergoing changes that would have entailed high social costs and lacked feasibility and durability."

The president pointed out the Mexican people's political ability to coexist in a civilized manner. He warned that Mexico's democratic modernization has not yet concluded, and that changes should be strengthened and consolidated so that the full benefits will reach all the Mexican people.

"The state reaffirms its irrevocable pledge of social justice, and is readjusting its actions to better fulfill its basic functions, safeguard the nation's security and integrity, and ensure the well-being of the citizenry."

Salinas said that presently the country is demanding a permanent effort that would require capability and endurance.

"It is in the hands of the country's foremost political forces to lead this change without leaving the nation vulnerable. It is in the hands of the political parties and the social organizations to do their part, and to agree on the basic rules of competition and forms of respect that our democracy demands. Guidance can undoubtedly be found in the Constitution and the procedure should be one of responsibility and civilized dialogue."

President Salinas thus spoke about the currently existing legal foundations that will allow greater progress toward the development of electoral institutions, the voter registration process, and the opening of new forms of pluralism. He is the first president in the country's 75 years of constitutional life to speak at the ceremony to commemorate the proclamation of the 1917 Constitution.

Salinas underscored that among the changes that Mexico is undergoing are the reformation and democratic transformation of the revolution, while maintaining the enduring principles of sovereignty, freedom, justice, and democracy. The president referred to the large-scale constitutional reforms of the past three years, which were approved by five of the six national political parties. He explained that with the economic changes, the state is playing the exact role it must play in the country's development, a role that is in keeping with the spirit of the Constituent Assembly and the liberal principles that gave birth to our fatherland.

"We cannot remain tied to plans that have been surpassed, which have made the state the sole author of political, economic, and social decisions, and solely responsible for all of the nation's problems."

The president rejected a state that owns everything and the irresponsible liberalism of a state that fades away and abandons its duties of regulation and guidance. He said that reforming [Law] 27 was for purposes of justice, not politics.

"Now the peasants can defend their interests in the manner that they decide. Therefore, their communities will be increasingly democratic."

The president warned that the constitutional reforms that regulate state-church relations grant new freedoms that must be exercised in a wise and responsible manner to avoid opening wounds that had already healed.

"They should not be a pretext for intolerance. I reiterate that the Mexican people do not want churches that get involved in politics or amass wealth, nor do they want politicians who attempt to manipulate the people's religious sentiments."

The president explained that the National Human Rights Commission's elevation to constitutional rank responds to Mexico's legal tradition of opposing impunity and arbitrariness. He stressed that the constitutional recognition that is now given to Indians in the new paragraph of Article 4 calls upon the entire Mexican entire society to take decisive action against the injustices that the Indian communities must still face. He warned that the changes will continue because we must understand that what functioned in the past does not meet today's social needs. Changes will continue, but with prudence, dialogue, and respect, Salinas stressed. Although there can be no change without controversy and disagreement, he said, it is possible for changes to be made in a peaceful manner.

"I intend to maintain general harmony without refraining from making changes. Because of all of this, I have reformed the revolution and I have renewed my work and my pledge to the country."

El Salvador

FMLN Commanders Return to Mexico 6 Feb

PA0602220492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1625 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Rebel sources in San Salvador have confirmed that a group of leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), including Jorge Shafik Handal of the general command, returned to Mexico on 6 February.

An FMLN spokesman told NOTIMEX early on 6 February that Commander Handal and other leaders left El Salvador to tend to "personal and FMLN" affairs still pending abroad.

Commander Joaquin Villalobos told the press that the FMLN must solve some affairs regarding its leaders' security and the infrastructure the FMLN needs to operate permanently in the country.

He said the Mexican trip is only temporary, and the commanders and leaders will return later.

Villalobos and Commander Francisco Jovel will remain in San Salvador to represent the FMLN in the meetings of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (Copaz).

Commanders Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Ana Guadalupe Martinez, and Nidia Diaz are other FMLN leaders who will remain in El Salvador to participate in other working groups within the framework of the peace process.

A group of 29 members of the top leadership of the FMLN entered the country legally on 31 January, one day before the implementation of the cease-fire that formally ended nearly 12 years of civil war.

Cristiani on Separation of Forces, Reconstruction

PA0702043692 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2100 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani said on 5 February that the first phase of the separation of forces in both the Army and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is about to end.

[Begin Cristiani recording] I think the first phase is about to end on 5 February. We expect the first phase of the separation, during which the Armed Forces will withdraw to 100 positions and the FMLN to 50, to be completed. The Armed Forces withdrawal began on schedule, and by 3 February its men were already in their designated places. The FMLN was expected to move its forces on 4 and 5 February, so we hope this phase is over now. [end recording]

He said that according to the agreements signed in Chapultepec, Mexico, that was the first phase of the separation of forces. As of 5 February, approximately 24 working days are left for additional force movements within the FMLN and the Army.

President Cristiani also referred to the National Reconstruction Plan. He said an economic team is currently in the United States to direct financial cooperation. In the Reconstruction Plan for El Salvador framework, there have been reports that a mass deportation could take place in June of this year when the law for the protection of temporary [word indistinct] of illegal aliens in the United States will expire.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] We have been assured by U.S. Secretary of State Baker that this will not occur. We have requested—and we know we have some support from the U.S. Congress—an extension of Salvadoran citizens' rights so they can freely decide if they want to return.

[Reporter] Have you recently made a request?

[Cristiani] To whom?

[Reporter] From the government to the Congress?

[Cristiani] No, we made the request directly to Secretary Baker during his visit; in other words, to the government, to the executive branch.

[Reporter] Regarding the deportations, have you considered requesting an extension deadline from Secretary Baker?

[Cristiani] We understand the deadline will be extended between 18 and 24 months.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] I do not think the country could absorb them at this time and immediately incorporate them into productive life. This problem must be viewed within the context of the transition period and the incorporation of former combatants, as it could make things more difficult. [end recording]

President Cristiani once again condemned and rejected the coup attempt perpetrated on 4 February against Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

He also referred to the health of Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, the lifetime president of the Nationalist Republican Alliance. He said D'Aubuisson has improved slightly in the past few days and even mentioned the possibility that he might be moved from intensive care, where he has been for the last 27 days.

Guatemala

President 'Satisfied' With Human Rights Report

PA0602151892 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0340 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] President Jorge Serrano said that even though there is criticism in the U.S. State Department report, it also acknowledges the current government's progress in human rights.

[Begin Serrano recording] We are very satisfied with the document's praise for the nation's achievements. We believe it points to a new road in the future. Regarding the negative comments, we note that the observations are made in very general terms. However, we are basically satisfied with the positive aspects of the aforementioned report. [end recording]

Minister Criticizes Report

PA0602152192 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] On 4 February, Guatemalan Foreign Relations Minister Gonzalo Menedez Park described as subjective the U.S. State Department's annual report placing Guatemala third among countries where more human rights violations have been committed.

Menendez Park stressed that the aforementioned report is based on incidents that took place in 1988, 1989, and 1990 before President Serrano Elias had taken office. Menedez pointed out that in some cases the report refers to the location of clandestine graveyards, thus proving once again that liberties are guaranteed to allow interested groups or relatives of missing people to move about unimpeded in their search for loved ones.

Menendez Park also said that in some cases the report makes value judgments that do not correspond to Guatemala's present reality. He concluded by saying that the majority of the report's findings correspond to the actions of past governments but not the present administration.

For his part, National Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa stressed that the Armed Forces are analyzing the U.S. State Department's report and will issue a response at an appropriate time.

Garcia Samayoa stated that in a majority of the cases, the report centers on the Armed Forces in a general sense and does not refer to specific cases. He stated that he believes the report's conclusions are unfair because one should not make generalizations, especially when the incidents under discussion took place in the past.

Government To Confiscate Drug Traffickers' Land

PA0502161492 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 2 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero has declared that all land being used illegally to grow poppies, marijuana, and other drug-producing plants will be confiscated by the state and, after some formalities, given to peasants in need of land for legitimate farming.

Espina revealed that his office has sent a bill to Congress dealing with this and other measures intended to fight international drug trafficking, because Guatemala will not be allowed to continue as or become a warehouse, bridge, or production zone for narcotics in view of the danger these substances represent to society.

Espina described how drug trafficking has penetrated the country's various economic activities such as industry, trade, and politics, stating that that is why the government needs discipline and support from all sectors of society to fight the phenomenon that is threatening to destroy the people's civic and moral values.

Guatemala has also decided to join the Latin American Plan to prevent and fight drug trafficking. It has signed a cooperation agreement with Argentina by which Argentina will give Guatemala all the assistance it needs in training police to fight drug traffickers, as well as in training medical and paramedical personnel to help drug addicts.

Espina pointed out that it is very difficult for drug addicts to return to normal life. Special techniques, concrete preventive actions, and education about the dangers of drugs are required for rehabilitation.

Espina said that President Serrano Elias' government's decision to undertake all types of measures and drastic actions is intended to prevent the effects of drug trafficking from penetrating higher levels of Guatemalan society.

Nicaragua

German Official Signs Document Granting Aid

LD0602191692 Hamburg DPA in German 1658 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Managua (DPA)—At the end of a three-day visit to Managua today, Economic Cooperation Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger signed an agreement which earmarks 30 million German marks [DM] of German financial aid for a number of development projects in Nicaragua. Spranger's counterpart Erwin Kruger, who signed the agreement for the Nicaraguan Government, welcomed Germany's readiness to continue to give Nicaragua financial and economic aid.

The agreed development aid is part of a sum totaling DM95 million, which Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl

promised Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro during her visit to Germany in 1991.

After signing the agreement, Spranger said the FRG will continue to actively support Nicaragua's development despite the country's domestic problems. He expressed satisfaction with the strengthening of democracy in Nicaragua, where a 10-year civil war ended when the present Chamorro government assumed office in 1990. Spranger added that Bonn has so far waived DM110 million of a total DM 580 million, which the former Sandinista government of Nicaragua owes the former GDR. Spranger later traveled to neighboring El Salvador.

Demobilization Deadline Deemed 'Unrealistic'

PA0602145392 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Feb 92 pp 1, 10

[Report by Roberto Larios]

[Text] The deadline established by the government to complete the process of demobilizing the subversives "is unrealistic," says Commander Luis Carrion Cruz, a member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] National Directorate.

"The recontras and recompas will disarm only when reasonable guarantees have been established for their own security and that of their families. Considerable progress has been made, but certain situations have not been resolved. What of the individuals who attacked the Waslala hospital and murdered Dr. Villarreal? When and where will they be demobilized? What punishment will they receive?" Carrion asked.

If this problem is not resolved, Carrion added, it is unreasonable to expect the recompas in Waslala, for example, to demobilize solely because the government has established a deadline.

In Carrion's opinion, the recontras' disarmament must coincide with the recompas' disarmament in the same territory and vice versa. That is the only way to give them a reasonable margin of security.

"The government must continue the process and create the necessary conditions in each critical municipality so the demobilization process can be definitively completed," said Carrion.

It is illogical to believe that subversive groups in Rio Blanco will go all the way to Jinotega (El Dorado, Tomatoya) to be demobilized when the factors that they consider threatening to their security are in Rio Blanco proper.

Security also implies the substitution of certain revanchist officials—who have been identified by their full names in each area—and the establishment of mechanisms to ensure that human rights are observed.

"In that regard, specific schedules should be prepared for each area, and the groups in each territory should make serious pledges so disarmament can progress," he said.

The police force's activities, behavior, and composition are the other fundamental elements. "Municipal policemen cannot be given as booty or a reward to any group."

It is appropriate to include former recontras and recompas who have disarmed in the police force, but not as a means of turning the force into a poorly mixed cocktail in which, just because its members are from a given political sector, they can do as they please."

"From that point of view, the little name "mixed police" is absolute nonsense; there can only be one police, a national police that will serve national interests in keeping with constitutional laws and regulations, which do not allow mixtures," said the Sandinist leader.

The way to resolve the violence problem in the countryside is to offer effective guarantees to legitimate land owners, he added, including all of the people who have benefited from the agrarian reform. "Land ownership must be legalized in the countryside. Such a measure would have a great calming effect and would end many conflicts."

* Commentary Views Nepotism, Corruption

92CA0073A Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 Jan 92 p 4

[Editorial by Bayardo Altamirano L.]

[Text] To the amazement of the people, the bourgeois democrats have continued their inexorable advance toward their third year in power. The government machine has been revamped, the most noteworthy aspect being the firing without notice of Antonio Ybarra for the chicken imports affair, which has never been cleared up. His rival, on the other hand, was rewarded with a transfer to the Cornap [National Corporation of the Public Sector]. As a result, one can safely say that "in this country, if you come from the right family you will always come out ahead."

But by the time the men in charge of public affairs get one problem half-way fixed, they are already mixed up in another one. As the saying goes, they tried to get one foot out of their mouths by putting the other one in. Their lack of cadres is understandable, but that is no excuse for the fact that in the aforementioned process, they named two private bankers (one of whom, by pure coincidence, was the nephew of the president) to top positions in the Central Bank of Nicaragua. As Catholics would say, they have put Luther in charge of the Church, or in the vernacular language, they have put the fox in charge of the chicken coop.

Caught red-handed by BARRICADA, they tried to pull a Pontius Pilate by publishing inserts in all the daily

newspapers swearing up and down that the officials in question had sold their stock in BANPRO as soon as they received the summons from Dona Violeta to make the great sacrifice for the Fatherland. Their alacrity and scruples are to be praised, but people who are not so well-intentioned as they do not swallow the story so easily.

To be sure, the current government's modus operandi is nothing new. This is a typical custom in capitalist countries, and as soon as it took office the administration named two well-known businessmen in the construction industry to run the ministry governing that sector. We do not doubt their assertion that the bidding for new projects will be conducted in a completely impartial manner. Nevertheless, the aforementioned should be regarded as a step forward in an inappropriate way of proceeding: All that remains is to put the executives of ATT and Siemens branches in charge of the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services (Telcor).

Imagine how scandalized these capitalist gentlemen would have been if the Sandinist government had named Lucio Jimenez and Damaso Vargas to important positions in the Labor Ministry.

They would indeed have raised a furor, accusing the government of bias and asserting that it cannot be both judge and jury. They regard the case at hand as a mere pecadillo that should be ignored; transferring their stock is enough, they say.

If they want us to believe the story put forth by the conciliatory, centrist government, however, they should at least be a little more subtle, don't you think?

Panama

Colonel Herrera Taken to Police Headquarters

PA0702034392 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 0240 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera is currently at National Police headquarters. He was taken there on the evening of 6 February by public force members who carried orders that did not specify the reasons for the action. The retired military officer, who has been under house arrest, was taken out amid strict security measures.

RPC Radio's journalist Luis Enrique Vasquez is currently at National Police headquarters but has been unable to reach a telephone. He has reported through third parties that a tense situation prevails at police headquarters, and everyone is waiting for further developments. Vasquez has also sent us a recording of the military officer's statements to the media shortly before being taken to National Police headquarters. Let us listen to what Eduardo Herrera said:

[Begin recording] [Herrera] The government has continued to harass me. On 6 February I sent someone to pick up my son at school; that person has been assisting me as I cannot leave my home. I was surprised to see that the car was stopped to ascertain if the car belongs to the government. I brought this car from the United States in 1982. I think this has gone too far. I am under strict surveillance, as you are well aware. My house is surrounded by G-2 personnel. By the way, one of them told me they had been sent here because a shipment of weapons would be brought to the house. I do not know from where.

In other words, things which happen in the country are always being misconstrued. There has just been a large deployment of personnel at my house, and they brought a strange order with them. I think the authorities should carefully consider what they are doing, because they are traumatizing my family—all of my family—with this harassment. Everything must stop. I am patient enough to wait. They should carefully think about what they are doing. They must respect my family. I think I have been harassed long enough.

[Reporter] Colonel, [words indistinct] the subversive movements that have occurred, including the bombs?

[Herrera] I am not Karnati or Walter Mercado [astrologers], able to do things from my house. How can I do these things if my telephone is tapped and my house is surrounded?

[Reporter] Who delivered the order? The director...

[Herrera, interrupting] I do not know. I have yet to see the order. I was quite angry because it was done very late. I am not a criminal.

[Reporter] What are the charges against you?

[Herrera] I do not really know. I am waiting for my lawyer to see what the charges are. [end recording]

Arrest Warrant Issued

PA0702040292 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 0322 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] An arrest warrant has been issued against Colonel Eduardo Herrera (retired) by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz. Herrera, who went to the National Police headquarters with his lawyer, said he had no idea why he was being taken there. Eduardo Herrera said the current government is using the same methods used in the past.

[Begin Herrera recording] This is outrageous. Panamanian people should beware. Today it is Eduardo Herrera's turn; tomorrow it could be any citizen's turn. This is simply too much. We struggled for justice and freedom. I can certainly claim I have struggled, unlike others who are enjoying their posts, having an easy life, and exploiting the Panamanian people, who have done nothing wrong. [end recording]

Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] Director Jaime Abad was seen at the premises. He explained that Herrera was

not being taken to the PTJ headquarters because, as he is under house arrest, he is under the National Police's responsibility.

The arrest warrant against Herrera was issued this evening following an urgent meeting called by the executive branch. The meeting was attended by the president of the Supreme Court of Justice and Attorney General Rogelio Cruz.

The president of the Republic confirmed minutes ago that a plan had been prepared to destabilize the government, adding that the plan included eliminating the president.

More details will be given in a matter of hours concerning the plan that was discovered by the authorities. Eduardo Herrera is now at the National Police headquarters. His residence is under heavy guard and could be raided by the police any minute now.

This has been a special bulletin. More details will be given in our 2300 newscast.

Endara Comments

PA0702042892 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 0329 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] During an impromptu news conference that concluded a few minutes ago, President Guillermo Endara admitted that he approved the arrest of Retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera on 6 February. Endara refused to give details, but he pointed out that there was a plot to assassinate him. The president did not rule out the arrest on 6 February of former soldiers and civilians linked to the previous regime.

We must point out that the president was very evasive, claiming there will be a news conference at 1100 [1600 GMT] on 7 February to report to the country on the events of the past few hours. Following are his statements to the media:

[Begin recording] [Endara] It involves an investigation conducted with my authorization. All details will be revealed to the media at a news conference that I authorized the National Police to hold at 1100 on 7 February. You will know all the details then. You will not only learn about Herrera's arrest, but about many other things.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Endara] Soldiers of the Public Force? There are...[pauses] attend the news conference on 7 February and you will learn that this involves more than just the arrest of Herrera.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] ...we want to know how many soldiers were arrested on the evening of 6 February and if the colonel is linked to destabilization actions against you.

[Endara] I cannot tell you. You will be told by the police director on 7 February. I authorized all the measures that are being adopted. They fully support the statements that the police director will make 7 February.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Endara] I do not know; you will know that tomorrow morning.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Endara] (?About everything).

[Reporter] Was there a plan to destabilize your government?

[Endara] You will be told the details tomorrow. There was indeed a plot [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Did the plot seek to assassinate or topple you? What was the plot's aim?

[Endara] To assassinate the little fat man, (?you are probably thinking that). [laughs]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Endara] The National Police have investigated themselves. That is the great merit the police have in this case. They conducted a self-investigation and [words indistinct].

[Reporter] How can a person who is allegedly under investigation while under house arrest head a destabilization movement?

[Endara] You fail to realize that anyone was able to enter his residence. Everything revolved around his house, and any person was able to enter and leave it.

[Reporter] Was there no surveillance?

[Endara] Yes, but he was free to see anyone he liked. You, the journalists who visited him, know that any person could enter or leave his house.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Endara] You will be told that tomorrow.

[Reporter] What was the coup perpetrators' support base? Are National Police troops linked to U.S. intelligence agents?

[Endara] This is an investigation that is bearing fruit now. It is possible that Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez will answer many of your questions on 7 February. [end recording]

Twelve Soldiers Arrested

PA0702044692 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 0407 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpts] At this hour, the situation outside the National Police headquarters remains very tense. At 2000 on 6 February, Retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera

was taken to National Police Headquarters. According to an official investigation, Herrera was the leader of a movement to topple President Guillermo Endara under the slogan: Murdering the little fat man.

According to Endara, Ret. Col. Herrera was able to lead the movement because he was under house arrest rather than confined in jail. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, reliable government sources told RPC Radio tonight that approximately 12 members of the National Police were arrested today for their involvement in terrorist attacks. The identities of those arrested remain unknown, but the person who launched the RPG 18 rocket against the installations of the Planning Ministry on 9 January is among them. RPC learned that former Col. Eduardo Herrera was arrested because officers close to him are also involved in the terrorist actions that have affected the country.

Commission Leader on Meeting With Cruz

PA0702024592 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Stanley Muschett, permanent secretary of the Justice and Peace Commission, has denied that he knows the identity of the soldiers allegedly involved in recent attacks. He said bomb threats and attacks on high-ranking officials will not force us to review our social model. The Permanent Secretariat of the Justice and Peace Commission met recently with Attorney General Rogelio Cruz:

[Begin recording] [Muschett] In our meeting, which was very cordial, the attorney general expressed his concern to members of the commission's Permanent Secretariat on the increasing wave of attacks, especially in the capital, that jeopardize the people's safety.

[Reporter] Did the attorney general or the secretariat make any recommendation on such movements that threaten social peace?

[Muschett] First, I must tell you that the attorney general came before the Justice and Peace Commission as a citizen and not in his capacity as public servant. The talks were never at an official level, therefore, there was never an attempt to develop proposals or strategies.

Second, this meeting sought to increase awareness of the situation. That was the goal of our lengthy meeting with the attorney general: to heighten the awareness of the people and various groups that might contribute to creating an awareness or adopting measures that might be implemented.

[Reporter] It has been reported that the attorney general suggested that certain individuals might be involved in subversive or destabilization movements. Was this done to allow the commission to make contacts and thereby find an end to the critical situation that has prevailed in the past few days?

[Muschett] That did not happen during our meeting with the attorney general on 5 February. I was honored by the attorney general's visit; the commission welcomed his views. The attorney general, acting as a citizen and not as attorney general, shared his concerns with us.

The commission voiced its gratitude, acknowledged his efforts, and listened to his concerns. In turn, they conveyed them to a plenary meeting of the commission. We discussed certain ideas. Perhaps the most important one was that this kind of situation must not be separated from the general framework of societal behavior. It requires special attention as part of the social structure.

At no time did the attorney general or the Justice and Peace Commission suggest any names or possible steps to follow. We simply listened to the attorney general's concerns. [end recording]

Attorney General Issues Instructions on Strike

PA0702003292 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 6 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has told republic district attorneys to begin legal action against transportation sector members who participated in a 24-hour strike on 5 February, partially paralyzing the country's land transportation.

The transportation strike ended after Eliseo Alvarez, chairman of the Legislative Commission's Transportation Commission, pledged to reconsider the contents of the bill that was approved in a first debate. He said every effort will be made to ensure regulations are discussed with as many groups as possible.

The National Council of Transportation (CNBT) decided to declare a land transportation strike because it believed the bill being discussed by the National Assembly endangered the existence of the transportation groups' labor unions, and because they felt there had not been proper consultations.

Certain routes remained operational during the strike despite aggressive action by CNBT members. Public transportation services were sharply curtailed in the capital, although taxi services operated as usual.

CNBT directorate board members told EL PANAMA AMERICA that if the authorities started any legal action against transportation sector members who supported the strike, they would declare an indefinite nationwide strike.

Transportation sector members demanded the creation of a high-level technical commission between the Executive Branch and the transportation sector members to ensure the bill includes regulations for land cargo transportation.

Two Soldiers From Fort Clayton Reported Missing

PA0602150692 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The U.S. Army Southern Command has declared missing Gary Viellux and Antonio Gunn missing after they failed to return to their outfit before midnight on 31 January. The two are U.S. soldiers from the infantry battalion stationed at Fort Clayton.

All departments of the U.S. Army and the Panamanian police have been advised of the disappearance of Gunn and Viellux.

The public is urged to provide any information available on the two soldiers' whereabouts.

Argentina

Economic Activities Reported 30 Jan-6 Feb

PY0602141892

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on economic activities in Argentina from 30 January to 6 February. Source information is given in parentheses after each item.

The State Oil Company (YPF) announced a reduction in the price of gasoline ranging from 4.41 percent (standard) to 5.33 percent (premium), thereby reducing gasoline prices to April 10, 1991 values. A liter of premium gasoline will sell for 0.65 pesos (down three cents from 0.68 pesos), while the standard will cost 0.53 pesos (down 3.1 cents from 0.561 pesos). In a press statement, YPF director Jose Estenssoro said "The cuts come as a result of a deregulated market and a company strategy aimed at adapting domestic prices to the evolution of petrol prices at international markets." (DYN) (Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Feb 92 p 6)

Bread, bakery goods, and wheat flour accumulated price increases of up to 31.9 percent in January, thereby becoming the largest variable in a 2.1 percent rise in the food and beverages sector, Trade and Industry Secretariat (SIC) data disclosed yesterday. The price of bread rose 20.7 percent, while wheat flour and bakery goods rose by 23.4 and 31.9 percent, respectively. SIC said 1.4 percent of the 2.1 percent rise in the food and beverages sector was due to rises in the price of cereals and their by-products. (NA) (Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Feb 92 p 6)

January tax revenue was 4.5 percent higher than estimated, totaling 3.006 billion pesos, the Economy Ministry announced yesterday. General Directorate of Taxation collection, Customs House income and social security system earnings were all higher than estimated, by 5.8 percent, 5.2 percent, and 2.2 percent respectively. Comprehensive Medical Plan pensioner and National Health Insurance Administration collection were both 1.6 percent larger than expected, the Economy Ministry said. (DYN) (Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 Feb 92 p 5)

Bolivia

Peruvian Senate President Arrives on Visit

PY0602172992 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] There is a distinguished guest in La Paz. Felipe Osterling Parodi, president of the Peruvian Congress [as heard] and president of the Peruvian Senate arrived in Bolivia today. One of Osterling's first activities was to visit Dr. Luis Ossio Sanjines, the president of the Bolivian Congress. Osterling came in response to an invitation from the Bolivian Government.

[Begin Ossio Sanjines recording] In addition to reiterating our will to promote understanding and friendship with Peru, we would like to emphasize, let us say, our common ideology. Both your party and my party have philosophical social Christian roots. Your party is a major option in Peru, like some other parties that are also respectable options. Although our party is small, we have permanently influenced our country's political philosophy. [end recording]

Osterling Parodi replied:

[Begin recording] Mr. Vice President, the part of your speech I enjoyed most is the part that reveals that you are not just an extremely talented man—I already know that because I am familiar with your distinguished career—but that you are also a leader and that you enjoy popular support. Popular support is very important. As you have made clear, there can be political adversaries, but there should never be political enemies. In the final analysis, everyone wants the best for his own country. It is true that different paths may be used for approaching this goal. I support the social Christian line of thinking, like you, Mr. Vice President. [end recording]

As part of a busy agenda of his 2-day visit to Bolivia, Osterling also visited Chamber of Deputies President Guillermo Fortun.

Decorates President Paz

PY0602194692 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Peruvian Senate President Felipe Osterling today decorated Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora:

[Begin recording] [Announcer, in progress] ...of the Peruvian Embassy, Jorge Roman, read the resolution decorating President Jaime Paz Zamora with the Andres Perez Great Cross. The decoration was made by Peruvian Senate President Felipe Osterling who delivered a speech in which he said that he was happy to be in Bolivia and emphasized the merits of President Jaime Paz Zamora. [passage omitted]

President Paz thanked Osterling for the decoration and pointed out the good relations with Peru. [passage omitted] [end recording]

President Paz Justifies Budget Allocations

PY0702015492 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora today urged some people not to lose their heads and do silly things as a result of decisions on the budget. He said: We should not make a mountain out of a molehill, alluding to demonstrations by university students who are demanding an increase in the university allotment in the 1992 budget.

In a speech given today during the dedication of the Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] digital program network, he alluded to regional activities by civic organizations that demand major budget investments.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] The budget may have its (?destructive) effects. Major importance will be assigned this year to one area and less importance to other areas. But we cannot concentrate on all sectors at the same time because we lack the resources. Consequently, in a serious country [words indistinct] if this year a higher budget is assigned to a particular area, next year we will focus on another area, but without neglecting any of them.

What we should understand is that we are part of the whole, that each department, each region is part of the whole, and what is invested in one region benefits the other. [end recording]

Paz Zamora said: The budget represents a minute in the existence of a country, which like Bolivia is progressing toward development and economic growth. He noted that no country will do what Bolivia did if it lacks stability and a serious, disciplined policy, and if order does not prevail within the development of the nation's activity.

Police Block Protest March; Issue Communique

PY0602140892 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Bolivian Police General Command issued the following communique a few minutes ago:

The National Police hereby inform the public that:

1) A march that was aimed at disrupting public order in La Paz has been dissolved on the La Paz-Oruro highway.

2) The National Police are aware of preparations by political agitators who are attempting to promote actions against public peace.

3) Everyone is hereby warned that the law will be enforced against anyone who hinders public transportation services and circulation in public areas.

4) People are hereby advised to avoid remaining in areas where political agitators will reportedly stage violent actions.

Economic Activities Reported 30 Jan-6 Feb

PY0602141692

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on economic activities in Bolivia from 30 January to 6 February. Source information is given in parentheses after each item.

The Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, will grant a $33 million credit for the construction of hospitals in Bolivia and improvement of the transportation infrastructure. During the signing of the joint agreement reached between IDB representatives and Health Ministry officials, it was reported that this credit will be disbursed in February. (La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Jan 92)

Jose Luis Lupo, director of the National Statistics Institute, has reported that the inflation rate for January stands at 2.57 percent. The accrued inflation rate for the past 12 months—January 1991 to January 1992—totals 10.98 percent. (La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Feb 92)

Brazil

Response to Reports on President's Health Noted

Collor 'Indignant' Over Rumors

PY0602234292 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] President Fernando Collor is indignant over the media speculations about his absence from Government Palace yesterday. During a news conference this morning, President Collor described the way in which the press has approached the issue as irresponsible and imprudent.

President Collor guaranteed that he is in good health and has the same determination to overcome the problems that are currently affecting the country. He said:

[Begin recording] There is absolutely nothing wrong with the president's health. Quite the contrary, I have the same determination, resolution, and willingness to overcome problems and to seek formulas of consensus to defeat the problems facing us. I am very satisfied with the results we have already achieved based on the policy we have implemented. [end recording]

Collor added that he preferred to stay at the Casa da Dinda, because he needed more calm and silence to work. He said:

[Begin recording] I did not go to the Planalto Palace yesterday because I thought it was better for me to stay at the Casa da Dinda to work on several matters. I needed more calm and silence to approach issues, such as a series of articles that are being published by the press. It was only this.

Moreover, since the president of Brazil is not entitled to take vacations or a free weekend anywhere in the country without it going unnoticed, it is only normal and natural to want to take a day of rest in almost two years of government. People must understand that this is precisely what it is. [end recording]

Furthermore, President Fernando Collor has decided to temporarily suspend the ceremony of walking up the Planalto Palace ramp. According to the president, he wants to break the routine:

[Begin recording] I do not want to become part of a routine that is typical of modern times. Any routine compels us to break it in order to adopt a more productive and positive attitude. [end recording]

Since the Collor administration took office, the ceremony of walking up the Planalto Palace ramp always occurs on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Brazil may achieve an agreement with the Paris Club and private creditor banks by the end of February. Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira, who is in Europe, phoned President Collor to inform him about this.

According to President Collor, the agreement will be achieved by 25 February:

[Begin recording] The reports I have available state that negotiations with the Paris Club continue to advance very well. If everything goes well, we estimate that by 24 or 25 February there will be a favorable outcome of the renegotiation of our foreign debt with international organizations and with Brazilian creditor banks. [end recording]

Press 'Irresponsible and Fickle'

PY0702021492 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Presidential spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva indignantly has denied a report issued by the O ESTADO news agency that was published today by some newspapers. According to this report, a source close to Dr. Ulpio Miranda [the president's personal physician] allegedly has reported that President Collor is presumably suffering from squamous ulcerative colitis.

According to presidential spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva, this report is a gross lie, and its authors should be ashamed. He added that the president is in excellent health and that he enjoys an enviable physical condition.

The presidential spokesman added that Dr. Ulpio Miranda did not see anything wrong with President Collor; and therefore, he never could have reported on the health condition of a person he has never examined. [sentence as heard] Moreover, Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva said that for the unhappiness of those few who do not wish him well, the president is as he has always been: in excellent condition.

He explained that Dr. Ulpio Miranda, who lives and works in Maceio [Alagos State], was in Brasilia yesterday to attend a meeting of the National Health Council. He added that Miranda was at the Planalto Palace meeting with Secretary Claudio Vieira [title as heard] and Presidential General Secretary Marcos Coimbra.

The presidential spokesman described as irresponsible and fickle the press reports stating that Dr. Ulpio Miranda yesterday visited the Casa da Dinda [Collor's residence] where the president was working. Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva added that he prefers a journalism that bases its information on facts and not on rumors. The presidential spokesman was not at Planalto Palace yesterday either. He was ill with a bad case of the flu and tosillitis. Although he still had a fever today, he decided to return to work.

'Most Tense Moments' Among Cabinet Reported

PY0602210892 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] For the first time since he took office, President Fernando Collor decided yesterday to stay at home during a working day. Moreover, the cabinet yesterday experienced its most tense moments in its 22 months in power. Jarbas Passarinho, justice minister and the government's political coordinator, informed two of his colleagues that he is willing to leave his post. In addition, there were a number of rumors about the imminent replacement of Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek and Aeronautics Minister Socrates Monteiro. Furthermore, Social Action Minister Ricardo Fiuza and Labor and Social Welfare Minister Reinhold Stephanes fueled speculations by promoting what they hoped would be a secret meeting at the Triana Residence, just a few meters from the Casa da Dinda—Collor's residence—with government secretary designate Jorge Bornhausen, who is also a PFL [Liberal Front Party] member.

Passarinho's absence from this meeting prompted controversial reports from PFL members.

Collor Writes on Issue of Institutional Reform

Part One

PY0602220492 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Feb 92 Section 1 p 3

["Institutional Reform - 1" by Fernando Collor]

[Text] The reform of institutions is a topic of permanent debate in young and dynamic societies like Brazil's, which have not yet achieved the stage of material and cultural welfare of the nations that consider, correctly or not, that their institutional framework no longer implements profound innovations. The desire for change, progress, modernization, and even the yearning for new experiences is natural and understandable in our country. The overall virtue of feeling wanted and the determined spirit to transform must be acknowledged within the social-liberal perspective.

Regarding the institutional question, this feeling is split into two diverse but complementary levels: first, the acknowledgement that, in habit, the law removes a large part of its force. Constant legislative changes bewilder the population. They produce badly understood rules and regulations that are barely respected and consequently less trustworthy. The negative effects of rules and regulations on economic activities, an area that is

even more sensitive to frequent changes in the rules of coexistence, are well known.

Second, and speaking about the specific and current case of Brazil, the permanent virtue of institutional stability must be added to the concrete virtues of our current political-juridical framework. The difficulties of the economic state of affairs in this phase of the transition of the statist and inefficient bureaucratic model for a modern and competitive economy dominate the daily lives of Brazilians of all classes—workers, businessmen, intellectuals, artists, public employees—making us forget at times the exceptional political moment that we are experiencing.

Being the first president to have all of his mandate governed by the 1988 Constitution, which significantly expanded the role of the legislative branch and fully restored the traditional functions of the judicial branch, I have undertaken to guarantee a harmonious relationship between the three branches of state, no matter what.

Essential initiatives of my government program have run into difficulties during their evaluation and processing in Congress, which I am confronting with a fully democratic spirit. Whether my program is approved, modified, or turned down, my willingness to conduct dialogue has not altered. Even when profound disagreements occur, they are taken as common facts in democratic coexistence. Crises or impasses do not exist because they are typical phenomenons of authoritarian governments and of personalistic styles of leadership.

The true understanding of the democratic process consists precisely in the full acceptance of the prerogatives of the other branches by each branch. Our institutions are experiencing a notable strengthening and harmonious interaction but, even so, significant reforms are also needed in this sphere. Meanwhile, they are seen more in the manner in which the several branches behave and interact, than in the strictly legal sense.

They begin with a reform of attitudes. The balance between the branches is essential for the functioning of democracy. After so many years of authoritarianism, it is natural that the legislative and judicial branches should seek to fully recover their influence and prestige before Brazilian society.

Once democracy has matured and been consolidated, it is necessary that those branches and the population, which resorts to them in the defense of its interests, should act in such a way that the legislative branch does not block the dynamism of the executive branch and that the judicial branch does not become paralyzed by the excessive demands that society imposes on it. We can all see how essential it is to guarantee the uniformity in the application of the law and not let questions of a general nature be decided in different ways by different forums, thus causing uncertainty in the spirit of the citizens. Through the people, we must seek the mechanisms that will ensure that superior decisions will reflect the will of the people, and that decisions at an even higher level should produce a general and immediate effect.

With specific regard to the relations between the government and Congress, a high spirit of cooperation and understanding is needed, taking into account the notorious deficiencies and contradictions of the Constitution as related to the regime of power that has been established under badly defined presidential regalia. The sovereign exercise of the legislative process cannot become exhausted by formal rebuffs by Congress, which the Constitution empowers and entrusts with the duty of offering creative amendments or substitutions.

In a subsequent article I will deal with other dimensions of institutional reform.

Part Two

PY0602230092 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Feb Section 1 p 3

["Institutional Reform - 2" by Fernando Collor]

[Text] In this article I will continue to describe a social-liberal proposal for institutional reform. This reform entails a change in the attitudes that were mentioned in the previous article, and also a change in objectives and behavior.

In a democratic system, where the separation and balance of powers operate through breaks and counterweights, the three state functions—legislation, administration, and judicial action—should not just be formally harmonious; they should harmoniously aim at the common good. This minimum consensus is essential for the desired harmony that is guaranteed to be politically feasible by the Constitution. It is not a matter of curtailing pluralism, but of taking action on the basis of an agreement. An outstanding feature of the most advanced societies today is the high degree of internal consensus on the objectives and values that underlie national projects. There may be disagreement in the election of leaders, in the approval of political plans, or in the issuance of laws, but as soon as a project is established, a collective effort should be made toward its fulfillment. Fortunately, modern states lost their ideological and economic monopolies. Yet they did not lose their central and decisive role for the attainment of major national objectives. The success of a government is not the success of a party but of the entire society, and the branches of government are perfectly well aware of this.

The executive branch has made a great effort to reduce spending and to enforce true ethics of public service, fighting nepotism and corruption in all its forms. Much has been said about corruption but—perhaps even out of bad faith—nothing has been said about the fact that only my government reported and clarified serious abuses that developed over dozens of years in organs of the central government and of state-run companies, as is the case in the social security system. This is an old disease that has taken deep root and that cannot be completely

and finally cured overnight. My efforts to restore normalcy in public services, punishing those who have misused public funds, have clashed with corrupt practices that have taken deep root in our political-bureaucratic tradition.

We are sure, however, that progress will be made because of the firmness with which the action is being undertaken and because of the transparency in all the phases of clarification of any situation that happens to develop. Other areas of the state have strengthened this positive trend by adopting the same measures to reduce spending and to fight all types of corruption and favoritism within their respective jurisdiction. One of the most outstanding examples of the imperfection of our structure is the fact that, until today, the exemplary rules for administrative discipline adopted by the Supreme Federal Tribunal could not be enforced in all federal and state judicial organs.

As for the administrative structure, the social-liberal proposal maintains that some features should be preserved. One cannot, however, say the same thing of the reduction of the Union revenues that are channeled into states and municipal districts that, however, continue to resort to federal funds even for paying for strictly local services.

As for the economic structure, it should be admitted that, as a society, our action to sweep the authoritarian state in the juridical and political areas—from the viewpoint of individual freedom and the exercise of democracy—was much faster and much more efficient than our action to dismantle the state economic apparatus. The reason for this is that it was easier to reach a consensus on the former. In addition, the economic areas that fed on their own inefficiency have resisted.

As the events of 1989 and the subsequent events in Central and East Europe have clearly shown, enthusiastic support for democracy and freedom does not guarantee an equally rapid change in the productive area. It is not necessary to recall that it is even harder to make economic growth produce broadly shared social benefits, which is the foundation of the social-liberal proposal.

Our proposal includes the liberal platform in the political area, liberal practice in the economic field, and an ethical social promotion effort to improve the living standards of Brazilians, thus permitting—as I said in a previous article—the harmonization of freedom, efficiency, and equality. As a country, we are proud of having achieved the first of these three objectives, and of being in quite an advanced stage on the second objective. Unfortunately, we are only at an initial stage in the search for the third objective. Institutional reform—even though linked, above all, to the first objective—will also be important for the other two. We need a more austere, modern, and efficient state. We need a legislative branch that can permanently tune society's major expectations. We need democratic, independent, impartial justice that should be properly equipped to promptly respond to those who have confidence in it.

Rezek Responds to Critics on Venezuelan Incident

PY0702023092 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Brazilian Government is waiting for the conclusion of the autopsy reports on the bodies of Brazilian gold miners killed in Venezuela to demand that those responsible be punished for the downing of the plane.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Arlinda Carvalho] Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek has responded to those who charged that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry did not adopt a firm position against the Venezuelan Government regarding the downing of the Brazilian plane on the Venezuelan border with Brazil.

[Rezek] Many people wonder why a foreign ministry always adopts a cautious or prudent attitude. This attitude is the basis for all successful foreign relations because no foreign ministry can adopt a SWAT-like methodology. A diplomat is not inspired by characters like Rambo. He has to follow a line of conduct that seeks to safeguard national interests based particularly on conscientiousness, common sense, and a certainty of the objectives that are sought.

On 4 February, there was an unfortunate coup attempt in Venezuela. On this occasion, the Brazilian Government witnessed how useful it was to have adopted an understanding and prudent attitude regarding this issue involving the gold miners. Otherwise, some people may have thought that Brazil was partially responsible for promoting an atmosphere that would lead to a coup d'etat in Venezuela.

[Carvalho] Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek added that he is waiting for the conclusion of reports to demand that the Venezuelan Government punish those responsible for the downing of the Cessna plane and the killing of Brazilians who were in Venezuelan territory. [end recording]

Army, Police Add Patrols on Venezuelan Border

PY0702001292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Army, the Federal Police, and the FUNAI [National Indian Foundation] will step up patrols on the Venezuelan border. The Army will patrol the entire region. Gold prospectors' aircraft are banned from leaving the Boa Vista airport in Roraima.

The last food and fuel supplies dropped by aircraft to the prospectors, who are illegally in Venezuelan territory, took place last week. Since then, FUNAI and the Federal Police have prohibited the authorization of flights leaving Boa Vista towards the border. This measure was

taken in an attempt to expedite the exit of the prospectors from Venezuela. Violation of this measure may result in confiscation of the pilot's license or even the aircraft.

In Brasilia, the Army Ministry is already adopting measures to tighten patrols of the northern borderline. A decree signed in November 1991 dismantled the First Motorized Infantry Brigade in Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro and, in turn, created the First Jungle Infantry Brigade in Boa Vista. This transfer will entail an increase of 400 military men in Roraima State. This measure falls within the framework of the Calha Norte Project, created in 1985, which provides for the installation of 10 military bases along the Amazon border. Four are ready, two are being built, and another four are still awaiting funds. The Army Ministry has stated that these brigades will the mark Brazilian presence in the area and safeguard order along the border.

Today the Army Ministry issued an official communique denying reports that the brigades have received orders to fire on any Venezuelan aircraft that violate Brazilian air space.

Next week Presidents Fernando Collor and Carlos Andres Perez will meet in Manaus. The two presidents will discuss joint actions by the Venezuelan and Brazilian armies to safeguard the border.

European Satellite To Help Army Map Jungle

PY0702013192 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Excerpt] A European satellite will be the Brazilian Army's greatest ally in controlling the movement of gold diggers in the Amazon jungle. With the survey that the National Space Research Institute [INPE] will carry out in that region, the jungle will cease to be a hiding place for gold diggers and illegal landing strips. Finally, the most perfect eyes in the world, those of a satellite, will photograph a little known area of the Brazilian Amazon.

At the Army's request, the INPE will produce detailed photographs of the entire Calha Norte project, which covers the territory between Acre and Amapa along the borders with Guyana, Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela. There will be 300 photographs in total, some of which already have been selected by experts.

Up to now, there has not been a detailed map of this part of the Amazon now being photographed by the INPE. One reason for this is that this region is covered by clouds most of the year, which greatly affects the quality of the photographs. However, as of next month, the INPE will have invaluable cooperation when it begins to receive photographs supplied by a satellite of the European Space Agency capable of producing clear photographs, even of areas obscured by clouds.

Once the survey has been completed, the Army will be able to spot clearings and fires and to follow the movement of gold diggers. [passage omitted]

National Treasury Records Surplus in 1991

PY0702013892 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] For the first time in the economic history of the country, the National Treasury has recorded a financial surplus. Throughout 1991, the government spent less than what it collected. Thus, it accumulated a surplus totalling 682.7 billion cruzeiros. From this total, 640 billion cruzeiros were collected in the last five months of 1991.

This was announced today by National Treasury Director Roberto Figueiredo. He added that this surplus will help the government's monetary policy and, consequently, to curb inflation.

Despite having experienced a drop of 19 percent in its revenues in January, the National Treasury recorded a surplus totalling 78 billion cruzeiros. Figueiredo added that with the tax reform approved by Congress, federal revenues will experience an increase in its collection as of February.

Treasury To Invest Capital in Aeronautics Firm

PY0702011992 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 5 Feb 92 p 23

[Text] Brasilia—According to a news report published yesterday in O GLOBO's Economic Section, the Department of the National Treasury will have to make a capital investment in Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] to prevent the state from losing control of the company with the conversion of company bonds into shares. The Economy and Aeronautics Ministries are examining ways to increase Embraer's capital, which will have to include an exchange of company debts in the Treasury.

The trading of Embraer shares in the stock market has been suspended since yesterday. The suspension will last until Embraer can prove that the state continues to control the company. The decision was made by the Movable Assets Commission (CVM) and was only conveyed to the stock markets yesterday morning, even though the problem was detected on 30 January.

The problems began in 1989 when Embraer issued bonds convertible into preferential shares without a vote. According to the law regulating corporations, the company must have a minimum of one third of its capital in ordinary shares—with voting rights—and two thirds of the capital in preferential shares. The process of bonds conversion shattered the two thirds limit, and bonds began to be traded for ordinary shares. If the exchange continued, the state would have lost control of the company. This possibility prompted the CVM to order a suspension of trading in company shares as of yesterday.

Something similar happened with Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc] shares in 1991: In order to increase its capital, the company issued shares on its assets with values well above the market value. The private sector did not want to purchase them, and the Treasury then purchased the overvalued shares and regained control of the company. A similar action might have to be devised for Embraer. In order to avoid Treasury disbursements, Embraer shares will have to be exchanged for debt titles. According to the CVM, this exchange must be done before the privatization takes place because the sale of the public company depends on "an equation on its debts."

Despite the Treasury's help in order to maintain public control of the company, the government will not help it resolve its problems. Ozires Silva, Embraer president, company founder, and former minister, tried unsuccessfully to get financial help from the Bank of Brazil, one of the creditors of a debt that already totals $700 million. This debt will have to be negotiated with the creditors.

PCdoB To 'Reinforce' Basic Marxist Principles

PY0602152092 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Feb 92 p 6

[Text] Approximately 600 members will attend the Eighth Congress of the Communist Party of Brasil [PCdoB] scheduled to be held in Brasilia 3-8 February. The objectives of this meeting are to reinforce Marxist-Leninist principles and not to follow the Brazilian Communist Party's [PCB] decision to change the party name, ideological line, and symbols, nor to approach European social democracy as the PT [Workers Party] did.

This announcement was made by Bahia Deputy Haroldo Lima, leader of the PCdoB in the Chamber of Deputies. Previously, he has described the congress as "historical" because it will reaffirm the basic principles of communism amid the ruins of the socialist experience in East European countries. Furthermore, this is why this meeting, which was initially scheduled for 1993, will be held at an earlier date. Lima explained that the PCdoB needs to urgently discuss why socialism has failed, especially in the defunct Soviet Union. Yet, he does not believe in looking for mistakes in Marxist-Leninist principles.

Lima said: In contrast to the defunct PCB, which split into two parties—the PPS [People's Socialist Party] and the PC [Communist Party], "the PCdoB does not run the risk of splitting." The Eighth Congress will elect new Central Committee members, but will maintain its leadership, headed by longtime president Joao Amazonas. A party for those attending this internal meeting—an artistic performance at Gra Circo Lar, an entertainment place in Brasilia—is also scheduled.

The PCdoB split from the PCB in the 1960's and organized the Araguaia guerrilla organization early in the 1970's. PC do B founder and ideologist Joan Amazonas went into exile in Albania during the military governments. Upon his return, he attacked the reforms promoted by former leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the defunct Soviet Union.

Chile

CIS Trade Delegation To Sign Contracts

PY0502173492 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Important trade agreements on shoe exports will be signed between Chilean businessmen and delegates from the republics of the former USSR. Representatives of the Association of Exporters of Nontraditional Manufactured Products, Asexma, met this morning with 18 CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] businessmen, who are interested in strengthening trade ties with Chile.

[Begin recording] [Asexma President Roberto Fatuzzi] Chile needs leather, and they need shoes. We can exchange products; we can barter. Their financial situation is, however, lamentable.

[CIS Ambassador Igor Ribalkin] This group has come to Chile at a difficult time, in view of our country's economic situation. Despite the difficult situation, however, these businessmen have come to make contacts and to try to do business. [end recording]

Currently, Chilean exports to the Soviet [as heard] republics are nonexistent. Hopefully, trade between the two nations will increase.

Reaction to Venezuelan Coup Attempt Noted

PDC Rejects 'Violence'

PY0602134292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Chilean Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has released a note categorically rejecting the attempt by a faction of the Venezuelan Armed Forces to disrupt constitutional order in that country. The note also expresses solidarity with the Venezuelan people and government, which is headed by President Carlos Andres Perez.

The note is signed by PDC Chairman Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle and Secretary General Genaro Arriagada. The note calls for an end to the use of force and rejects the use of any form of violence to solve political and social problems.

The American PDC board of directors, which is presided over by Chilean Deputy Sergio Pizarro, was meeting in Caracas at the time of the attempted coup. In a note, the American organization categorically rejected the rebellion and expressed its solidarity with Venezuelan democracy. The note also congratulated Venezuelan civilian society, political parties, labor organizations and unions,

students and workers, and the Venezuelan people in general for their support of their national legal institutions. The note was signed by Sergio Pizarro as president; Venezuelan Senator Pedro Pablo Aguilar as secretary general; and Miguel Angel Rodriguez, head of the Costa Rican Congress, as vice president.

PCCh Says Coups 'Contagious'

PY0502221092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] The Chilean Communist Party [PCCh] today warned that the frustrated coup d'etat in Venezuela should sound the alarm in all Latin America.

PCCh President Volodia Teitelboim pointed out that other coups may take place in Latin America. He said the risk of military coups has not ended with the one that took place in Haiti, for example. He added that Chile should be aware of these type of events because coup leaders may appear. He said:

[Begin recording] We believe that one should be very cautious in Chile, because as Rafael Caldera, Venezuelan Christian Democratic Party president, stated [words indistinct] these people remain in their hideouts awaiting the hour. I think that we Chileans must try to see this Venezuelan warning as something that concerns us. [end recording]

Teitelboim stated that Latin American coup attempts should be seen as ghosts that belong to current times and not to the past. He said that the PCCh rejects any attempt to oust democratic governments and expressed his support to the constitutional government. He noted that coups d'etat are contagious in Latin America. He said that despite the fact that Chile is different from Venezuela, it has features in common.

Economic Activities Reported 26 Jan-6 Feb

PY0602135492

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on economic activities in Chile from 26 January to 6 February. Source information is given in parentheses after each item.

Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley reported yesterday that government savings totaled $1.2 billion in 1991 because the Chilean Government was able to go beyond its target of saving 2.6 percent of the gross domestic product, GDP, and its savings accounted for 4 percent of the GDP. This means the government saved an additional $400 million in 1991. Foxley added that the government is also determined to save an additional $400 million in 1992. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 26 Jan 92 pp A1-A13)

The National Statistics Institute has reported that the January inflation rate totaled 1.1 percent and that inflation over the last 12 months totaled 19.5 percent. In January, foodstuffs increased an average 0.9 percent and the price of health care, electricity, rent, and interstate bus fares, among others, also increased. (Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Feb 92)

Economy Ministry Adviser Jorge Leiva has said that the 1992 unemployment rate is not expected to surpass 4 percent. He added that the current 5.3 percent national unemployment rate is a result of more production activities, particularly in the industry, construction, and finance sectors. (Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Feb 92)

Colombia

Peace Talks Postponed 'at Least 10 Days'

PA0702031892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The peace talks in Caracas between the Colombian Government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, CNGSB, will be postponed at least 10 days, at the request of the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, the guerrillas have continued to make threats. Some threats were delivered in a communique in which the guerrillas gave the government 7 February as deadline to cancel an increase in the price of propane gas. Otherwise, they have threatened to carry out terrorist actions to prevent the distribution of that product. The threats were made by the 33d Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in Norte de Santander Department.

On 6 February the government announced it will not change its policy of mass consumption of propane gas—which includes a 49 percent increase authorized in December—but it will also try to level domestic and international prices, which are 50 percent higher.

Here is Deputy Mines & Energy Minister Alejandro Martinez:

[Begin Martinez recording] Regarding possible guerrilla actions, we hope the rebel groups will realize these measures were adopted for the country's benefit and for the benefit of Colombian families. In any event, we have coordinated actions with the military forces in order to maintain order. [end recording]

According to the government, the project for mass consumption of gas will result in a savings for the country. It is expected that by the year 2005, the price that Colombians currently pay for electricity will be less. The program also calls for new investments by Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] and projects in Bahia Malaga and Cartagena to import 2,000 barrels of propane gas per day.

At the present time, 740,000 families use this product, and as a result of the government's policy, approximately 85,000 more families are expected to use it in the near future.

'Wave of Violence' Reported Throughout Country

PA0602185492 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—A wave of violence has once again shaken the country. Forty-three people were kidnapped, a well-known Bogota businessman was killed, a policeman murdered by subversives, and a ranking National Police drug agent was seriously wounded. In addition, an oil pipeline was dynamited by terrorists from the Guerrilla Coordinating Board.

The three latest kidnappings took place in Santa Fe de Bogota, where a group of heavily armed alleged subversives, wearing camouflage and using several vehicles, kidnapped industrialist Lorenzo Klein Mazuera from his residence. [sentence as heard] Meanwhile, Japanese engineer (Fabio J. Nakamagua) was taken hostage in La Tebaida, Putumayo; and businessman Agapito Obregon Ramirez was kidnapped in Florencia, the capital of Caqueta.

Ecuador

Borja Reiterates Support for Venezuela

PA0502182692 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja Ceballos has stated that the attempted coup d'etat in Venezuela is a bad precedent for Venezuelan democracy, but that it will not influence other countries in Latin America.

During a news conference, Borja stated that the establishment of a de facto government in Venezuela undoubtedly would have represented a setback in the integration process that the democratic leaders of our five countries [as heard] are so desperately seeking. He also noted that this is a bad precedent for Venezuelan democracy, but that it is in no way a precedent that could influence in any way the democratic development of the remaining countries of the region.

The Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry has stipulated that the government and the people of Ecuador support the government and the people of Venezuela in the defense of their institutions and emphatically condemn the attitude of those who have tried to interrupt the democratic process that Venezuela has enjoyed for several decades.

The Foreign Ministry stressed the antihistorical attitude of those who have tried to lead Venezuela into political situations that have already been overcome, at a moment such as this when the world is striving to consolidate democracy, which is viewed as the only system—through liberty and social justice—capable of achieving human progress.

The Foreign Ministry has monitored the developments in Venezuela with much alarm, and has expressed its total solidarity with the democratic institutional government of Venezuela, represented by President Carlos Andres Perez.

President Borja personally transmitted these convictions to the Venezuelan president, and immediately joined in signing the document through which several Latin American presidents rejected the attempted coup d'etat and reiterated their respect for the principles honored in the OAS Charter and the fundamental ideals of peace and democracy.

Drought Brings 'Drastic' Electricity Rationing

PA0602132492 Paris AFP in Spanish 1618 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Guayaquil, 5 Feb (AFP)—Beginning 5 February, there will be a drastic rationing of electricity, lasting up to 12 hours per day, due to the drought that has virtually dried up the water supply to the country's main hydroelectric plant in Paute.

Over the past two weeks, Guayaquil's Electric Company (Emelec) has not cut electricity to hospitals and health centers, but included them in the rationing on 4 February.

"This is wartime rationing," a businessman of the Guayaquil Chamber of Commerce has said. The group has set losses at $600,000 per hour.

The crisis arose unexpectedly following a severe drought in Ecuador's inter-Andean region, where the Paute plant, which produces at least 50 percent of the country's energy supply, is located.

Because of the energy crunch, some sectors are asking for the privatization of the state-owned Ecuadoran Institute of Electrification (Inecel).

The private Research and Analysis Center, which has termed Inecel's energy policy "irresponsible," blamed it for the collapse of the thermoelectric complex, and accused the government of wanting to take over the U.S.-owned Emelec, which supplies Guayaquil, a city that consumes 40 percent of the country's energy.

Venezuela

Defense Minister Holds News Conference 5 Feb

PA0602215392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0205 GMT 6 Feb 92

[News conference by Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich at Miraflores Presidential Palace on 5 February—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ochoa] I feel there is interest in my summary of the unfortunate events early on 4 February, creating a commotion in Venezuela and in the world. The first thing I want to do is to reject the events and the manner in which they took place. It is not possible for a group of officers to violate their oath to the flag and their loyalty

to the fatherland, to use wrong ideas and lead their subordinates to death, or to fail to comply with their obligations—as has happened.

That is why, first of all, I want to reject in the most sincere and honest manner the events we have just experienced. The Armed Forces of Venezuela has earned a good name in Venezuela and in the world. It is unacceptable to have a minority group, failing to respect their oath to the flag and the feelings of the Venezuelan people, violate that oath and attack the stability of Venezuelan institutions.

Venezuela has a democratic system that is deeply embedded in the feelings of our people. There have been and will always be some errors and omissions. Nonetheless, these errors and omissions do not justify a group of Armed Forces officers harming the credibility of our Armed Forces in Venezuela and in the world and committing such actions.

I will try to summarize as clearly as possible how the actions took place, in the hope that the clear manner in which I will explain them will not leave any room for speculation and that it will be clearly established in history. This is of interest, not only because it is important to explain how things happened, but mainly so that our history will record it as a truly unacceptable event. It will undoubtedly serve as an example so that it will never happen again.

At approximately 1300 on 3 February—when, as you all know, the president of the Republic was abroad—an Army general provided some information to the effect that a subversive action against the stability of the government might occur in the evening. That information was passed on to the division general and Army commander, who in turn notified military intelligence, who in turn had information to the effect that there would probably be a surprise attack at Maiquetia Airport in order to prevent the president from landing or to stop him just as he landed in Venezuela.

As a result of these reports, all Armed Forces commands were placed on alert. I was notified about this as soon as I returned from Maracaibo. Therefore, I returned to Maiquetia Airport and alerted the National Guard detachment guarding the airport. I also adopted measures to defend the airport, which prevented the surprise attack that the rebels themselves have admitted they had planned to carry out at Maiquetia Airport just as the president landed in Venezuela.

Interior Minister Dr. Virgilio Avila and I accompanied the president to La Casona presidential residence. On the way, I informed the president of the events, but inasmuch as the attack had not taken place at Maiquetia, we thought the information was unfounded, as has happened on many occasions.

When I returned home, I received a call from the Mara Base commander who was in Caracas. He told me he had received information that the base, where the Aramendi Battalion is stationed, had rebelled. I immediately telephoned the president and asked him to leave La Casona and go to Miraflores Palace. I also called Governor Alvarez Paz and alerted him to the situation prevailing in Zulia State.

I immediately advised the battalion guarding the Defense Ministry and, in a very short time, I entered the Ministry and took direct command of its defense. The president left La Casona barely five minutes before it was attacked and the Defense Ministry was surrounded by one of the insurgent units.

My arrest was not possible, thanks to the Caracas Battalion, which defends the Defense Ministry. Unfortunately, several Army staff members, including Chief of Staff Division General Ivan Jimenez, Brigadier Gen. Geronimo Salvatierra, and a group of generals who went to the ministry after hearing the reports of the rebellion, were arrested at the doors of the Defense Ministry.

I maintained communication with the president, who told me Miraflores Palace was being attacked. Convinced that the conspiracy was sizable, the president and I reached the conclusion that it was essential for the president to address the nation in order to denounce, both to Venezuela and to the world, the rebellion that was doubtlessly tarnishing the best values of the Venezuelan people.

For that reason, and certain that the troops defending Miraflores Palace did not have sufficient military capacity to defend the palace from an attack by the armored unit that had gone there, I took some immediate measures to launch an attack on Miraflores Palace. At the time of these events, other events began taking place at Mara Fort... [rephrases] at Tiuna Fort and at other garrisons in the country.

I believe the hour of the coup d'etat was approximately 2300. I mean that was the hour chosen by the rebels to take up arms against the republic.

Thanks to the courageous attitude of Gen. Taglaferro, commander of the 3d Division, who controlled part of one of the rebellious units—and whose presence kept another tank unit from rebelling—we were able to organize that tank unit and the Bolivar Battalion under Gen. Oviedo, and to order the attack on Miraflores Palace.

At the same time, I began negotiations with the unit that was surrounding the ministry and holding the officials and generals under arrest. My presence and my words convinced them to stop their attempt, release the arrested officers, and return to their garrisons. [passage omitted]

We then got airplanes loyal to the government—F-16's from the Aragua Base—to take off and begin pressuring the rebel units. The situation was very serious but, through personal conversations with the rebellious officers—and certain that the attack was undoubtedly meant to harm the very life of the chief of state, or at least to arrest him—I

was able to get them to understand that the movement had failed, and they began negotiating with me.

Another unit that rebelled against the government was the Monagas Artillery Group stationed at Libertador Garrison. That artillery group dominated part of the Zulia State garrison and arrested Zulia Governor Alvarez Paz, who did not have time to leave the governor's residence after I told him that there was subversive activity in Maracaibo.

Commander Chavez Frias—whom you regrettably already know because of his condemnable attitude, which has also hurt his military honor and his situation as an officer—and some soldiers had taken over what is known as the Military Museum, which is the former Military School, located on one of the hills near Miraflores Palace. We are convinced Commander Chavez wanted to go to Miraflores Palace after the armored unit had taken control, in order to direct the operations from the Palace personally.

I spoke to him. When he was convinced the movement had failed, he agreed to lay down the weapons and address his rebelling companions in order to convince them to do the same. You already know what happened after that. All of the units returned to their garrisons and accepted the regular commands. There is absolute normalcy throughout the country at this time. All units are under our control, and there are currently no rebelling units. Now we will discuss the reports on Commander Chavez. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Ochoa] There are 14 dead and 57 wounded. I categorically deny the report that approximately 300 are dead.

[Reporter] Is there any evidence that civilians were involved in the coup?

[Ochoa] I am going to have to give each reporter a chance to ask questions. Otherwise, there is too much confusion.

There is no evidence that civilians are involved in the attempted coup. Nevertheless, we are investigating, and the nation will subsequently be advised.

[Reporter] It is important for the nation to know because the people are anxious—as this attempted coup undoubtedly seriously threatened the democratic system in Venezuela: What is the ideological platform this group of officers presented to assume power?

[Ochoa] I know this group of officers well, not only because of my position as defense minister but because, as general of the Armed Forces, I have spent many years with the officers. I believe this is also one of the reasons my conversations with the various media resulted in the surrender of many of those units. The truth is that the officers and the president have used an interesting sentence, which I consider valid. These officers have a somewhat outdated ideology. These are men who have extreme nationalistic beliefs. They believe Venezuela should establish a system different from the pluralist system. Within this framework, they uphold an excessive passion, as they believe that, in this fashion, they can reorient Venezuela toward a different road than we now tread. Their error lies in that they do not understand—that one group alone does not hold the truth. The truth of a nation always rests in the consensus of its people. This is why it is important [pauses] this is the importance of the Venezuelan pluralistic process—that is, the peaceful coexistence of the various sectors in the political arena. Basically, the elections we hold every five years, so that we can solve our differences regarding the guidance of the Venezuelan state in a civilized manner. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] Does Chavez's leadership [words indistinct] a group of officers who in the future could cause a [words indistinct]

[Ochoa] I do not think the leadership of Commander Chavez Frias is of such magnitude that it could lead us to believe that these incidents could be repeated. Moreover, and it is very important to make this quite clear: There was not only total local rejection, there was also total worldwide rejection. This rejection indicates that a minority group—just because it has the nation's weapons in its hands at that time, and is breaking the oath of locality to the republic—cannot disorient the road of a nation such as Venezuela. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Minister, is there an ideological dispute within the Army? [Words indistinct] that no ideologies are debated within the Army? It is evident that there are ideological contradictions within the Venezuelan Army.

[Ochoa] Well, I would say....

[Reporter, interrupting] This uprising is proof of that. My other question is that, given that you interrupted the sequence of the events you were explaining, could you continue on this important issue.

[Ochoa] Afterward, as you all know, some aircraft flew over some rebel units. I talked with all the officers in charge of the different rebel units, and based on these discussions, they agreed to lay down their weapons.

With regard to the ideological problem, I have stated that, in Venezuela, the soldiers have an ideology that is, simply put, to serve the country. In addition to this, there is a pluralistic system in Venezuela. This forces our men in uniform to understand and realize that they cannot express their political views. If they express their political views, they will be upsetting the stability and the possibility of having a pluralistic system prevail in Venezuela. Only totalitarian regimes accept that their Armed Forces practice an ideology. This was the case of the communist regimes, which as you all know have disappeared almost completely.

[Reporter] General, is it true that President Perez told you not to negotiate with the rebels but to use force against them?

[Ochoa] That is absolutely true. The president, at all times, demonstrated calm and firmness to control the regrettable incidents we were experiencing. Initially, I

negotiated with the rebels because I thought it was prudent to avoid massive bloodshed. Obviously, the negotiation was conditioned upon an unconditional surrender, as it actually happened.

Given that time was precious to control the situation, the president many times ordered that, if no unconditional and immediate surrender of the insurgents could be guaranteed, the loyal forces would attack them, as happened when we attacked Miranda Base and Miraflores Palace.

[Reporter] As a result of these events [words indistinct] you got the president out of La Casona. Can you explain why Miraflores Palace was practically unprotected and the rebels were able to storm it?

[Ochoa] As you remember, I said the report I received was that there would be a coup attempt in Maracaibo. At the time, we did not have information that units from the Caracas Garrison were participating, although we had received reports on the putsch attempt that could take place at Maiquetia Airport. The president arrived at the palace, and he has acknowledged that he did not alert defense units promptly because he never imagined that such a rapid attack against La Casona and Miraflores Palace would take place. This was a simultaneous strike, as the attacks on Miraflores Palace and La Casona were launched at the same time. [passage omitted]

Rebels To Receive 'Understanding'

PA0702022692 Paris AFP in Spanish 2055 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Caracas, 6 Feb (AFP)—Venezuelan Defense Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich has assured the mothers of the soldiers implicated in the 4 Feburary coup attempt that "their actions will be reviewed with understanding."

In a speech broadcast on radio and television, Ochoa Antich said: "We understand what happened, and we know how the events took place. Soldiers followed orders from their superiors, and they certainly are not responsible."

"Therefore, I do not believe that they will be punished," he added.

Out of the 1,091 military men who were arrested in connection with the coup attempt, 956 are soldiers, and 135 are mid-level officers. Those under arrest are being investigated by the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DIM) and will be judged by military courts. The rebels could face sentences of up to 28 years in prison. In his message, Ochoa Antich said: "We will be as prudent as possible, as the situation warrants; however, we will be severe in deciding who is responsible."

According to official reports, only five high-ranking officers have been implicated in the aborted coup: Hugo Chavez Frias, Jesus Ortiz, Francisco Arias, Francisco Urdaneta, and Joel Acosta. The five officers belonged to the self-styled Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement, which reportedly has "ultra-leftist leanings," according to the governor of Valencia, a city located in the central part of the country that remained under the control of the coupists for more than 10 hours.

Various groups in the country have asked Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom to appoint a special commission to guarantee the rights of the soldiers arrested during the military coup, basically their right to life, not being subject to physical torture, and the right to defense at any stage and level of the legal process that will be taken against the rebels.

Perez Guarantees Political, Military Control

PA0602201192 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1504 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Caracas, 6 Feb (DPA)—Two days after the thwarted military coup attempt in Venezuela, President Carlos Andres Perez on 6 February guaranteed total political and military control throughout the country and announced the immediate restoration of democratic stability in the country.

In a message broadcast by radio to the entire nation, Perez urged the Venezuelan people to reflect on the consequences of the coup attempt in order to avoid a repetition of "such embarrassing" incidents as those that took place at dawn on 4 February.

"In Venezuela you can only attain power through votes," said Perez, who on 4 February confronted the fifth military rebellion in Venezuela's contemporary democratic history. Between 1960 and 1962, the social democratic government of Romulo Betancourt was subjected to three military uprisings that were attempts to destabilize the constitutional order that had been recently established in the country.

"Let us not allow these incidents to repeat themselves," Perez said in his emotional message. The uprising, which came at a time of popular discontent over the austerity plan implemented by Perez in 1989 when he took office for the second time, has generated a new controversy over the course his government is following.

While Perez attributes the military coup attempt to "criminal groups" that sought to murder him in order to "offend the dignity" of the Armed Forces, many analysts agree the uprising took place because of the economic and political crisis Venezuela is experiencing.

"Let us create an atmosphere of optimism and trust in which we can tolerate one another and try to correct our mistakes," said Perez, attempting to end the controversy. The president, defending the first three years of his government, asserted that he "constantly reviews his policies" and that the Venezuelan people "should be proud Venezuela has been basically successful in every field."

Nevertheless, 80 percent of the Venezuelan people are currently living in poverty, over 30 percent are indigent, and more than half the active population earns less than $150 a month. According to newspaper reports on 6 February, residents of the poorest neighborhoods, although opposed to

a dictatorial regime, expressed sympathy for the coupists because they believe Venezuela has lost the fundamental values of the democratic system.

According to a poll conducted by EL NACIONAL newspaper, many Venezuelans are disappointed with the Perez government and are asking the president to see to their needs. In his message, the Venezuelan president appealed to the people to "view these painful events from a positive point of view," so "we can appear before the world as an exemplary democracy in Latin America."

Perez, who again related the events at dawn on 4 February, confirmed that the majority of the coupists were "adolescents who were deceived" into attacking the Miraflores Presidential Palace and La Casona presidential residence in eastern Caracas.

Former COPEI Leaders Call For Policy Change

PA0602145892 Paris AFP in Spanish 2042 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 5 Feb (AFP)—Venezuela's political opposition has demanded that the government of Carlos Andres Perez make a complete shift, adding that the only solution possible for the president is to put on hold the dispute with Colombia concerning marine and submarine areas that the two countries have been negotiating for over 40 years.

In an telephone interview by a Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Santa Fe newscast, Former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, of the Social Christian Party [COPEI]—the opposition to the ruling Democratic Action Party—said that following the foiled coup on 4 February, the only thing left for Perez to do is to put on hold the Gulf of Venezuela dispute.

Herrera Campins, who during his mandate reached the "Caraballeda Hypothesis" with Colombia in 1981, which is the closest the two countries have come to solving the dispute, insisted that the Gulf is vital for Venezuela and not for Colombia.

The agreement fell through because Herrera Campins submitted it to a referendum before signing it, and the Venezuelan people rejected it, feeling that point four granted Colombia rights to exploit hydrocarbons discovered in the Gulf.

He said that there are still differing proposals on putting the dispute on hold, "but they all agree on the need for a suspension."

"The truth is that there is no climate here to resolve this issue," Herrera Campis noted, adding that although the topic of the Gulf and the recent statements by Carlos Andres Perez "do not sufficiently justify a coup attempt, they obviously did have a great bearing on it." According to Herrera Campins, the problem with Colombia is not related to ocean waters, but to rivers, including the preservation of the hydrographic basins of the two countries.

"Perez must realize that a shift in his policy is necessary because social unrest among Venezuelans exists and is growing over economic measures, international commitments with the IMF, and the dispute on marine and submarine areas, among others," the COPEI leader noted. Rafael Caldera, another former president and COPEI member, also warned that Venezuelan democracy is still in jeopardy.

"There can be another coup attempt at any moment," he warned during an interview on the Radio Santa Fe newscast, and explained that "the country is going through great internal turmoil; it is experiencing a conflict based on the growing unhappiness."

Caldera also said that Venezuelans do not agree with Perez' handling of the economy, and many sectors of Venezuelan society disagree with him on the Gulf dispute.

Teachers, Government Reach Agreement, End Strike

PA0602124492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Report by Josefina Ortiz—speakers identified by caption]

[Text] Classes will resume at state and private schools, thanks to an agreement reached by the teachers' federations, the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers [CTV], and the Education and Labor Ministries. Talks between labor and teachers' unions will continue, so as to achieve a more effective and vigorous agreement on the need to revise teachers' salaries.

[Begin recording] [Education Minister Gustavo Roosen] The teachers' representatives here have agreed to help restructure the school year to ensure that Venezuelan children and youths successfully complete it.

[Labor Minister Ruben Rojas] First, this agreement will salvage the current school year. Second, it restores normalcy to labor relations between the Education Ministry and the unions. Third, the CTV and the unions will make an effective and conscientious contribution toward bringing calm to the citizens and strengthening the democratic system.

[CTV leader Cesar Gil] School activities will be completely normalized as of 6 February. We will do everything we can to ensure this. Federations will cooperate to ensure that class attendance will be complete and comprehensive on 6 February.

[Teachers' Federation leader Carlos Andueza] I must say that the agreement, which we will sign in a few moments, is a victory for the Venezuelan teachers, because the Education Ministry has recognized clause six, by agreeing to pay 50 percent of the salaries in arrears from 1991. Clause six is restrictive and pertains to three aspects.

The commission just appointed will, with great patriotism, reach an agreement with the ministerial commission to assure parents that their children will complete the current school year. [end recording]

There is no doubt that the resumption of school activities is a victory for the overall development of our country.